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The vanishing American Jews

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Setting limits for missile warfare

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Labor plank allows for Palestinian state

By SARAH HONIG

The Labor Party convention yesterday adopted a controversial platform plank recognizing the Palestinian people's right to self-determination in a state with limited sovereignty. This came after frontrunning leadership candidate MK Ehud Barak dropped his opposition.

The convention also named Histadrut chairman MK Amir Peretz as the party's candidate for another term and geared up for the election of a new secretary-

general, after MK Nissim Zivili formally announced he is stepping down. Although the convention's actual

Sneh, Ben-Ami reject Beilin appeal to drop out, Page 3

business included some potentially explosive ideological issues, they were swiftly and smoothly disposed off, with

little interest shown by delegates after the excitement of the Peres-Barak showdown on Tuesday.

Thus the convention approved a plank in which Labor "recognizes the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination" and "does not rule out the possibility of a Palestinian state." Such a state, according to party blueprint, would have limited sovereignty, be demilitarized, will be prevented from forming military alliances with other states, and its air space would be open to the Israel Air Force.

When the plank first came up last month before the party political committee, headed by leadership candidate Shlomo Ben-Ami, Barak opposed it, arguing there is no need for Israel to decide for the Palestinians.

But Barak was approached by two of his supporters, MKs Uzi Baram and Yael Dayan, who talked him into withdrawing his objections. Ben-Ami was delighted, saying, "It is high time that Labor stopped avoiding reality."

Leadership hopeful MK Yossi Beilin described this as "a very real victory for

me and my colleagues, who favored the idea of a Palestinian state long ago. I am glad Barak cleared the obstacles he sought to place before this change, but the man [Barak] who refused to vote for Oslo 2, and who railed against the government for not building more at Har Homa is not part of my ideological world."

The convention also adopted a plank calling for "increased efforts to bolster the settlements on the Golan, pending an agreement with Syria."

The Likud reacted to the Palestinian state

plank last night by charging that "Labor is divesting itself of all its principles and is offering the Land of Israel to the lowest bidder in an end of season sale."

The convention also formalized the merger between the breakaway Ram Histadrut faction and the Labor faction. Ram's Peretz will be Labor's candidate for another term as Histadrut chairman, at the head of a joint Labor-Ram ticket. He will seek to attract other political factions.

Continued on Page 2

Court delays decision on four Bar-On petitions

By BAT-SHEVA TSUR

The High Court of Justice has put on hold its decisions on four petitions to indict Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi, to remove Avigdor Lieberman, director-general of the Prime Minister's Office.

Shas's rush on the courthouse, Page 3

The court announced this last night, following a marathon 13-hour session. It did not state when it would give its rulings.

Earlier the court had rejected four other petitions submitted following the state attorney's report on the Bar-On Affair. They were

filed by Meretz MK Yossi Sarid, Labor MK Ophir Pines, by Labor MKs Yossi Beilin and Yona Yahav, and by the Movement for Quality Government and private citizens. Another petition filed by a private citizen was withdrawn.

The five-person bench, headed by Deputy President Shlomo Levin, convened at 8 a.m. to hear petitions aimed at proving that Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein's decision not to prosecute Netanyahu and Hanegbi for their roles in the affair was not reasonable.

The debate centered around Netanyahu's degree of involvement in an alleged deal to appoint Roni Bar-On as attorney-general in order to win a plea bargain for Shas leader MK Aryeh Deri in his fraud and bribery trial.

It is not reasonable to say that "the prime minister did not absorb" information about a deal, as the report states, the petitioners

argued. If there is no prima facie evidence against Netanyahu, it must be because Rubinstein applied too high a "threshold" to determine whether there was such evidence.

At one point Justice Dalia Dorner asked the state's representative: "In the decision-making process, did you apply different standards for the prime minister because he is a VIP?"

"Absolutely not," replied Shai Nitzan of the State Attorney's Office. "The considerations were based solely on the evidence."

The court rejected a petition calling for the publication of the minority opinion in the state attorney's team. The dissenting minority had called for indictments against Netanyahu and Hanegbi.

It also threw out petitions to order the publication of the police report on its investigation of the affair and the setting up of a pub-



Labor MK Ophir Pines (right) argues with a Shas supporter at the Supreme Court building yesterday.

(Bryan Hendler)

lic commission of inquiry. "What would a commission of inquiry achieve?" asked Justice Eliezer Goldberg when the issue was raised.

"The public has the right to full information about this affair. The police only investigated the criminal aspects, but it is not its duty to look into the public aspects of

the affair," argued attorney Avigdor Feldman on behalf of petitioner Sarid. "There was a failure of the system. The prime minister acted cynically and has

not learned from the experience. The breakdown has not been examined."

Continued on Page 2

Squabble over Swiss fund led to Wiesel's refusal to join

By ELI WOHLGELERNTER

Conflict over the makeup of the executive board of the Swiss compensation fund for Holocaust survivors was a main reason Nobel laureate Elie Wiesel refused to accept a position on the commission. He repeated Tuesday in an interview with *The Jerusalem Post* that he also did not feel comfortable about determining how to distribute the money.

New York Times: Freeze Swiss assets, Page 12

"The Swiss decided from the very beginning that they needed to be the majority (on the seven-member committee)," Wiesel said.

"Why? Because it's Swiss money. I would have said, 'Wait a second - here the recipient is more important than the giver because it's a moral question, not a financial question.' And therefore we should have said, 'We need a majority, that if it should come to certain points we should have the majority.'"

"But even so, I didn't want it for a very simple reason: How do you distribute monies? Am I going to say that someone who was two months in Birkenau is more important than someone who spent six months in the



Elie Wiesel (Bryan McBurney)

Warsaw Ghetto? How can I stand up later on and say to a survivor, 'Look, you didn't deserve to get more money.' Can you quantify suffering?"

The head of the fund, Rolf Bloch, a Jewish leader in Switzerland, charged on Saturday that Wiesel's declining to serve on the executive board would delay payments to survivors.

But Wiesel countered that the fund, which was formed in February, only sent him an official letter spelling out his position at the beginning of this month, and that he answered promptly two days later. Prior to that there had been unresolved

discussions over what his role would be.

"The Swiss minister sent me letters - so laudatory - but I heard they weren't so enthusiastic, because they knew with me, I have a way of standing up, I'm not afraid of governments."

"They had it in their ordinance that [the head of the fund] must be a Swiss citizen. Okay, I don't need titles. But the World Jewish Congress wanted the title. First they wanted me to be president. Switzerland said no, the president must be Swiss. So they began speaking about titles, which made the whole thing silly. It's not a matter of titles. They appointed me international chairman, and the Swiss foreign minister said, 'Wiesel can have no special powers.' I was just the seal of approval."

"The World Jewish Congress felt that for their reasons, since they had only three [people] on the executive board] versus four Swiss, that they wanted me. So I said, 'Let me see what they write.' But when I got the letter, I realized it's not for me."

Wiesel said there is already disagreement over how the fund, which eventually could total \$7 billion, should be distributed. One group, he said, had decided that every survivor, some 300,000 here and in Eastern Europe, should each receive \$180, "with a note for those who don't need it to give it back. Can you imagine?"

He admitted that the matter of how to distribute the money is "not an easy situation," but that "the main thing is not to humiliate the survivors. It should really go to those survivors who are old

and sick and destitute, and they should have dignity. The main thing is they shouldn't feel like beggars."

Wiesel said that had he remained on the fund, he would have called for establishing "programs for old-age homes; give medical insurance to those who have none; and give more money to those who need it in Eastern Europe, or to organizations here like AMCHA. It's going to be such a problem. It's not for me."

A full interview with Wiesel will appear tomorrow.

Ne'eman verdict due today

By RAINE MARCUS

Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court Judge Dan Arbel will today hand down his verdict in the trial of former justice minister Ya'acov Ne'eman for perjury and obstruction of justice.

Ne'eman resigned from his post after journalist Yoav Yitzhak petitioned the High Court protesting his appointment. This prompted police to launch an investigation.

Ne'eman was charged with deliberately giving false evidence in the trial of MK Aryeh Deri and with encouraging a prosecution witness, Martin Brown, to give false evidence.

Ne'eman claimed he had simply made a mistake in his testimony, which he corrected later. However, the prosecution argued that Ne'eman corrected his statements to "cover his tracks."

Arbel asked if it were possible that Ne'eman made a legitimate mistake, but the prosecution insisted he had "made many mistakes" and that there was criminal intent.

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NEWS

in brief

Call for Knesset debate on Rabin documentary

Meretz faction chairman Ran Cohen, who heads the Knesset State Control Committee, is calling for a Knesset discussion on the television documentary *The Road to Rabin Square*. The film, screened Tuesday on Channel 2, portrayed the incident which preceded the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin.

Cohen said the events leading to the assassination have never been investigated, except for security-related issues. He said the documentary was the first serious attempt to deal with the public aspects surrounding the assassination and as such could not be ignored. *Liat Collins*

Porat: PA operating pirate TV station

The Palestinian Authority is operating a pirate television station from the Intercontinental Hotel in eastern Jerusalem, according to National Religious Party Faction Chairman Hanan Porat. He said yesterday that the operation of the station on UHF 21 is just one violation on a Communications Ministry list of Palestinian violations of the Oslo accords. Porat met yesterday with Attorney General Elyakim Rubinstein and State Attorney Edna Arbel, who promised to investigate the matter.



Hanan Porat

In the morning, Porat filed a police complaint against PA Chairman Yasser Arafat's advisor Ahmed Tibi for saying last week that someone who sells land to Jews has sold his soul to the devil. Porat noted that the day after Tibi spoke on Israel Radio, land dealer Farid Bashit was murdered. *Liat Collins*

Man drowns off Haifa

A man in his 60s drowned yesterday afternoon off Haifa's Shemen Beach. He had been swimming with some friends. A Magen David Adom crew came to the scene, but could not revive him. *Itim*

Civil Guard volunteer shot and wounded

A Civil Guard volunteer, 54, from Tira, was shot and wounded from a passing car at the Tira-Taibe junction yesterday. He was reported in serious condition at Meir Hospital in Kfar Sava, after being shot at point-blank range in the abdomen, the arm, and both legs. *Itim*

Education seminar set for Basel

Jewish educators from Israel and Europe will meet in Basel from May 18 to 20 in the 10th European Seminar for Jewish Education, sponsored by the Jewish Agency's Joint Education Authority.

The gathering is being held in Basel as one of the first events marking 100 years since the First Zionist Congress met in that city.

Delegations are expected from both larger Jewish communities, like England and France, and smaller ones such as Romania, Hungary, and Turkey.

There are to be sessions in the hall of the First Zionist Congress, and workshops on topics ranging from prayer to the Internet. *Jerusalem Post Staff*

Mordechai, Erekat meet with Ross

By JON IMMANUEL

Israeli and Palestinian negotiators were meeting last night under US auspices to seek a way out of the peace talks deadlock.

Palestinian Authority spokesmen said they did not consider the meeting with US special envoy Dennis Ross at the Herzliya home of US Ambassador Martin Indyk to be negotiations, but rather an opportunity to hear US suggestions.

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai, heading the Israeli team, arrived an hour after the scheduled start of talks. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's adviser, attorney Yitzhak Molcho, also attended.

The Palestinian delegation was headed by Saeb Erekat, the chief Hebron negotiator. Erekat hosted Ross in his hometown of Jericho yesterday, where the two discussed their positions prior to last night's three-way meeting.

Nabil Abu Rudeineh, an adviser to PA Chairman Yasser Arafat, has said that freezing construction on the controversial Har Homa project in southeast Jerusalem, across the Green Line, is basic to getting talks moving again.

In Ramallah yesterday, Arafat told a donors' conference that the negotiations are stuck because of land expropriation. He attacked Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's reported plan of giving Palestinians control over 40 percent of the West Bank as insufficient to ensure territorial continuity along the Jordan River.

He also said the Palestinian economy is going from bad to worse, in marked contrast to more optimistic comments by Shaath a day earlier.

Arafat said there is 62% unemployment in Gaza and 48% unemployment in the West Bank, that closures are costing the PA \$7 million a day, produce is being held up at checkpoints, and quarries have been closed between



Norway's Foreign Minister Bjorn Godal (left) and Foreign Minister David Levy hold a press conference outside the Foreign Ministry yesterday. (Brian Handler)

Jerusalem and Ramallah costing many jobs.

Foreign Ministry official Ilan Baruch refuted the charges, quoting the Palestinian Bureau of Statistics concerning unemployment, which he put at 25% in Gaza and 17% in the West Bank.

He calculated the loss to the Palestinian economy of 50,000 workers earning \$40 a day in Israel at \$2 million a day. He

denied any quarries had been closed and said that up to 800 trucks a week leave Gaza, and 500 cross to Jordan with no overnight holdups.

Baruch noted that this improvement had taken place despite the lack of negotiations, the government coordinator's spokesman said.

Jordan appeared yesterday to be taking a more positive line to the peace talks. The pro-Hussein Al-

Dussor noted in an editorial that "The possibility of making progress on the Palestinian track seems better today than two months ago, unless the Netanyahu government does something unpredictable."

Syria has also said it is interested in resuming bilateral talks, Norway's Foreign Minister Bjorn Godal told Foreign Minister David Levy yesterday, after arriving from Damascus.

"I was reassured by the Syrian president and foreign minister that they take interest in the furthering of the peace process," Godal told reporters. "They expressed positive interest on the revival of the Syria-Lebanon track ... and this was the message that they wanted to convey to me."

In response, Levy said, "I say again, I am ready to meet the foreign minister of Syria anywhere, any time."

Settlement leaders vow no more cooperation if demolition continues

By MARGOT DUDKOVITCH and ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

In meetings with OC Central Command Maj.-Gen. Uzi Dayan and Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai yesterday, settlement leaders stressed that there would be no further cooperation if demolition of houses in settlements continues.

According to Yehiel Leiter, of the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria, and Gaza, the leaders raised their concern over the fact that Dayan has the authority to decide when building in settlements can be carried out after the actual permits have been granted by Mordechai.

"It is no secret that he isn't exactly sympathetic toward the community in Hebron and settlements such as Yitzhar, near Nablus," Leiter said.

In addition the leaders raised the issue confiscation of weapons from settlers.

Dayan told the settlers that he had to abide by the law, which stipulates that if someone is being investigated by police, he is not allowed to carry a weapon.

Mordechai told the settlers he wants to strengthen existing settlements and briefed them on the actions taken by the defense establishment to foil terror and give a reasonable level of security to residents of Judea and Samaria.

He stressed that the policy of the government is to strengthen existing settlements, but at the same time

to keep the peace and deal with lawbreakers, no matter who they may be.

"I don't accept talk as if there are people in this country who want peace and people who don't want peace. We all want peace, but everyone has their own opinion about what peace is," Mordechai said, adding that dialogue needs to be protected and maintained.

Also participating in the meeting were Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak, Dayan, and Eli Cohen, Mordechai's adviser on settlement.

Mordechai also briefed the settlers on his talks with special US mediator Dennis Ross, as well as his meetings with European and Egyptian representatives.

Defense officials said the meeting was held in a "very good atmosphere."

Leiter said the settlers stressed the need to speed up the process of expanding existing settlements to maintain security.

"Yitzhar for example can find itself totally isolated if it isn't allowed to build on the [nearby] hilltop," he said, adding: "If we don't wake up now, the Palestinian Authority will build there instead, causing a threat to the settlement."

"There are many settlements with hilltops nearby or overlooking them that will cause a severe security problem if they aren't permitted to build. We told Mordechai that if he doesn't want us to bulldoze roads to these hilltops, he had better act fast."

LABOR

Continued from Page 1

The Geshet faction, led by Foreign Minister David Levy, was mentioned by Peretz as one of his targets. No mention was made of the political future, if any, of the present Labor Histadrut faction chief, Haim Haberfeld, who is Peretz's bitter foe.

Zvilli announced tersely that he will be quitting as secretary-general and that immediately after the June 3 leadership primary, the contest would begin for the post he is vacating. Zvilli left the impression that he will be leaving the political arena altogether. He and other Peretz supporters fear they have few political prospects, because they expect Barak to launch a vendetta against them, despite his assurances to the contrary.

Uzi Fogelman, head of the High Court Division in the State Attorney's Office, replied: "The situation is that there is no public aspect... The decision-making process has not yet been completed with regard to some of those concerned." He was apparently referring to the Deri case and to the completion of the investigation into Lieberman's activities.

Arguing in favor of the publication of the police report and minority opinion, the petitioners suggested: "If some of the material could interfere with the [ongoing] investigation, then why not publish those parts which do not?"

Yet another petition - objecting to the decision to indict Deri - was withdrawn and the court ordered the petitioner, attorney Dan Kochavi of Rehovot, to pay costs. Kochavi had complained that "the entire Deri affair is based on ethnic discrimination... This is an Ashkenazi court," he shouted at the justices.

"We judge on the basis of legal evidence," explained Levin.

In his petition, Kochavi stated that "[Court President Aharon] Barak and his wife are judges and their children are lawyers, but they are forcing their Yemenite housekeeper to remain in her lowly position."

To this, the prosecution responded that the petition's language was not fit to be brought before the court.

COURT

Continued from Page 1

Channel 1 last night reported it had obtained details of the minority opinion. It said that attorney Talya Sasson, who had been the coordinator between the State Attorney's Office and the police during the investigation, had been the one to press for indictments. She was later joined by Deputy State Attorney Yehoshua Reznick and Jerusalem District Attorney Moshe Lador, and together they formulated a report recommending Netanyahu be indicted for breach of trust.

State Attorney Edna Arbel was torn between accepting and rejecting the idea of an indictment, the TV said. When her report with Rubinstein's endorsement was released, they had expected a totally different reaction from Netanyahu, the TV said.

"The legal experts felt that the prime minister had completely missed the significance of the report," Channel 1 said.

ARRIVALS

Arrivals for the Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors of Tel Aviv University. From Argentina: Diana Casale. From Australia: Clara & Jack Lerner. From Austria: Dr. (Honi) Helia & Marian Gerner. From Brazil: Alina & Michael Furman, Miriam & Charles Tzavli. From Canada: Stephanie & David Azzieli, Susan & Martin Goldberg, Leah Goldberg, Paula & Ira Schechter, Jennifer Schechter. From France: Loni Silleran. From Germany: Lola Fischel, David Scherf. From Spain: Astrid & Henri Miraschi. From The United States: Nomi & Alan Auzilien, Pauline Namoroff, Judith Riklis, Leo Streeby, Carol & Melvin Taub for the inauguration of the Carol and Melvin S. Taub Chair in Applied Medical Physics, Robert Topchik. From Venezuela: Dr. Lia Merendick.

WHO resolution condemns Har Homa construction

By JUDY SIEGEL

The World Health Organization's 50th annual assembly yesterday passed a resolution, proposed largely by Muslim states, that was sharply critical of Israel regarding its "settlement in the Palestinian territory, and especially in Jabal Abu Ghneim [Har Homa] in occupied East Jerusalem."

The resolution was passed on the last day of the assembly by 93 countries and opposed by only Israel, the US, Palau and Papua New Guinea, with four abstaining.

Health Minister Yehoshua Matza, who returned to Jerusalem after a week's participation in the assembly but before the resolution was voted on, said yesterday that it was a shame that the members mixed politics with medical matters. He had asked Dr. Fathi Arafat, head of the Palestinian Red Crescent Society and brother of Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat, to moderate the anti-Israel proposals at the gathering, but pressures from militant Arab and Muslim countries made this difficult.

In the end, only minor changes were made, including a change from "occupied Arab Jerusalem" to "occupied East Jerusalem."

The resolution deals with "health conditions of, and assistance to, the Arab population in the occupied Arab territories, including Palestine." It notes "with deep concern" the "obstacles facing the peace process and the adverse consequences of the continuous closure of the Palestinian territory on its socioeconomic development, including the health sector."

Israeli representatives who were present at the vote said it was "completely political," and reminded them of attacks on Israel at UN gatherings before the peace process began.

The resolution urges member states and organizations to provide speedy and generous assistance to Palestinian health projects and calls on Israel "not to hamper the Palestinian health authorities in carrying out their full responsibility for the Palestinian people, including in occupied East Jerusalem, and to lift the closure imposed on the Palestinian territory."

The unveiling ceremony, on the shloshim of the sixth President of the State of Israel

CHAIM HERZOG

will take place on Sunday, May 18, 1997 (11 Iyar 5757) at 3 p.m., at the gravesite of the nation's great, Mount Herzl, Jerusalem.

The public is requested to arrive by 2:40 p.m.

We sadly announce the death of our beloved mother, grandmother and great-grandmother

GENIA K. LUDWIN (née Glazer)
(Vilna, South Africa, Canada)

who passed away in Canada on May 7, 1997.

Deeply mourned by:

Her children, Hala and Joe Shapiro, Ra'anana
Samuel and Vivienne Ludwin, Canada
Tamar and Martin Fransman, Scotland
David and Laura Ludwin, Canada

Her grandchildren, Dorrit and Yachin Yarchi
Jonathan and Tzippi Shapiro
Yair, Yael, Moshe, Ariela Shapiro
Derek, Raymond Ludwin
Judith, Karen, Jonathan Fransman
Adrian, Daniel, Ilana Ludwin

Her great-grandchildren, Daniela, Alona Yarchi
Tomer Shapiro

Shiva at 68 Rehov Yehuda Halevi, Ra'anana (09-7716876)

Our dear

THERESE HELLER

The funeral will take place today, Thursday, May 15, 1997, at 11 a.m., at the Gordon Cemetery, Shikun Hamizrah, Rishon LeZion.

We shall meet at the cemetery gate.

Shiva at the home of her daughter, Ruth Riegler, 30 Gordon, Rishon LeZion.

Mourners:

Ruth and Kurt Riegler
Dafna and Doron Danal
The Grandchildren

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REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK

Shas's rush on the courthouse

By HERB KEINON

The steady stream of tourists shuffling through the Supreme Court's wide, marble halls gave the court a "business as usual" air yesterday. But the short-haired, thick-armed riot police sitting on hardwood benches in front of Hall 3, watching who went in and who came out, was a sure indicator that "something was up."

Bar-On is what was up. After the media, police, and attorney-general all had their shot at the messy Bar-On Affair, the court finally got its turn. The police were on hand to make sure no one tried to interfere.

The specter of interference, in the form of overzealous Shas supporters, is not some far-fetched, theoretical dilemma. Tuesday night, some 250 supporters of Aryeh Deri rushed the locked entrance of the courthouse in protest. A huge white-on-black headline, in one of the dailies screamed: "The night the Supreme Court was almost conquered."

The riot police both inside and outside the building showed the lesson had been learned.

Tuesday night's protest gave proof that the so-called "ethnic issue" let out of the proverbial bottle is no wisp of a genie, but rather a bucking bronco that - with enormous destructive capability - kicks in all directions.

The rush on the courthouse came just days after stones were thrown at policemen standing at attention for the siren marking Remembrance Day for the Fallen of Israel's Wars, which came just a few days after a pro-Deri demonstration in Bnei Brak on Holocaust Heroes' and Martyrs' Remembrance Day.

The country, once again, resembles a slaughterhouse for sacred cows. The rules of the game have been shattered, said Labor MK Ophir Pines, one of the petitioners to the court, who spoke during a break in the day-long hearings. "It did not surprise me," Pines said of the Shas demonstration. "I am not surprised by anything Shas

does. They are anti-everything."

Pines agreed with the hypothesis that those at Tuesday night's protest, as well as most of those at the occasional pro-Deri street demonstrations, are the party's activists, its elite, not the rank-and-file. "But if we don't stop it at this level," he said, "we will be faced with hundreds and thousands who will eventually take to the streets."

Stopping "it," he said, means arresting those responsible - which will inevitably pour more salt into the wounds. "No choice," he said.

While Pines was speaking, a group of men in their 20s and 30s, air force civilian employees touring the court, gawked and then surrounded one of the personalities who attended the hearing. Not Meretz MK Yossi Sarid, not high-profile attorney Avigdor Feldman, but Ayala Hasson, the Channel 1 reporter who broke the Bar-On story.

Hasson provided the only buzz of electricity in the hall. The Shas demonstrators of the night before

failed to show - leaving the riot police with little to do but watch the people watch Hasson.

Which is not to say there was no Shas presence. Three or four party activists were on hand throughout the day, listening to the arguments, occasionally passing notes.

"The Supreme Court is the last bastion of racism," said Gabi Butbul, Shas's representative on the board of the Israel Broadcasting Authority. "The very fact that one seat on the court is set aside for Sephardim is proof of this. One seat for Sephardim, and another for a religious justice. And what if another Sephardi is qualified? They will say, 'Oops, your seat is already taken.'"

By its very makeup, Butbul said, the court is unable to understand what is bothering Shas supporters. The demonstration the night before, he said, was not a dramatic storming of the country's seat of justice, but just the protesters' attempt to let the justices know what is sitting so heavy on their hearts.

Ramon may vie for Labor top spot later

By SARAH HONIG

MK Haim Ramon dropped a bombshell into the Labor Party convention yesterday, when he announced that he may well challenge the winner of the June 3 leadership primary one year before the 2000 elections.

Meanwhile, outgoing party leader Shimon Peres and Ehud Barak, his likely successor, sought to lower the tone of their Tuesday confrontation, with Barak praising Peres and Peres promising not to strike out on his own. But they did not meet.

Ramon asserted that the party rules mandate a ratification of the candidate for prime minister a year before the elections. This, he argued, "means that the field is still open and that the candidate can be challenged. If the situation allows it, I will seek the nomination. I am not in the contest in this round, but I may be in

the next one."

Barak's supporters say there is no such clause and that Ramon is willfully distorting the party rules, but they predicted that he will snap at Barak's heels and might eventually even leave Labor and seek alliances with the likes of Tel Aviv Mayor Ronni Milo (Likud) in a new party.

When the convention's second day opened, the expectation was that the Peres-Barak antipathy would come into play. Each of them met with his closest backers after Tuesday's decision that Peres would not be appointed party president.

Peres said he would not show up for the proceedings. But his people urged him to reconsider, as his absence might be interpreted as his accepting defeat. In the end, Peres appeared and announced that he would not join the government.

"This is out of the question," he said. "A national unity coalition is

also not likely. I will not leave Labor, and it is a shame to waste time on that. Time is precious now and is running out fast for the peace process and that should be uppermost in our minds. I will work for peace and need no one's permission to do so."

He promised to cooperate with the new party leader, but stressed that he will not quit politics. Peres refused to endorse a leadership candidate.

Barak sought to justify the showdown and argued that "there was no other choice when we failed to reach a compromise. I am sure we will make use of Shimon's talent and experience. He is too great for titles. He doesn't need them."

Barak's chief opponent Yossi Beilin, however, charged that "this showdown was a superfluous demonstration of power, and this power play is what is so frightening in Barak."

Kahalani: Protesters never entered building

Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani yesterday denied media reports that Shas protesters entered the Supreme Court building on Tuesday evening.

Shas did not comply with the conditions of its permit for the protest, he added, and a much larger number than allowed showed up after the agreed-upon time. Despite that, they stayed within the permitted area and did not do anything that called for exceptional police action, Kahalani said.

Police were stationed opposite the Supreme Court at the time for which Shas had received a permit to demonstrate, Jerusalem police chief

Cmdr. Yair Yitzhaki said. A half-hour later, when the protesters failed to show up, most of the police left, leaving behind a small group as a deterrent, he said.

Shortly afterwards, some 200 Shas supporters appeared, moved the barriers police had set up, and began their protest, said Yitzhaki, who headed an investigation into the incident.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has asked Kahalani to look into the incident, so that similar occurrences can be prevented. He condemned any actions that threaten or put pressure on judges, calling Tuesday's protest very grave. (Ilim)

C'ttee urges action on behalf of Beduin education

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

The Knesset Education Committee yesterday recommended that an interministerial committee be established to solve the educational problems of the country's Beduin.

The committee was responding to the continuing strike in the educational system in the Beduin towns of Rahat and Tel Sheva, which is entering its third week and has kept 14,000 pupils out of school. The strike was launched to protest overcrowded schools and poor infrastructure.

The committee also recommended building 300 classrooms in the Beduin community within the next three years, and establishing a special education track for the Beduin.

Chairman Emanuel Zissmann said that the committee had conducted a tour of Beduin educational facilities five months ago,

and had passed on recommendations to Education Minister Zevulun Hammer, but "nothing has been done."

Zissmann said that "morally and publicly," he supports the strike, but suggested waiting until the end of the month to see if the Finance Ministry agrees to provide the funds necessary to meet the committee's recommendations.

MK Ruby Rivlin (Likud) said it was inconceivable for a cabinet minister to say on the eve of Remembrance Day for the Fallen of Israel's Wars that the Beduin "are full partners in the fate of Israel, and then the night after Independence Day, the Education Ministry leaves them in a situation like that which existed here 300 years ago. We must bridge the gap immediately, and this is the duty first and foremost of the Education Ministry."

MK Taleb a-Sanaa (United

Arab List) noted that "the strike began two weeks ago. Now the Finance Ministry is asking for two more weeks to give an answer. Why does it take a month to look into a problem that's known to everyone?"

Education Ministry Director-General Ben-Zion Dell said he had met with Finance Ministry officials last week and had demanded they find a way to build the needed classrooms. "All the nice plans, some of which are already being implemented in the field, can't go ahead without the proper buildings. The Finance Ministry undertook to give us an answer by the end of this month," he said.

Meanwhile, Rivlin and Zissmann are to meet today with leaders of the striking junior lecturers at most of the country's universities in an effort to end that strike, which began Tuesday.

Two soldiers moderately injured in accident

By DAVID RUDGE

Two soldiers were moderately injured when an armored personnel carrier swerved out of its path and hit them. The accident happened yesterday while the troops were on operational duties in the security zone's eastern sector.

The two soldiers were treated at the scene and later evacuated by helicopter to Haifa's Rambam Hospital. The army is investigating the circumstances surrounding the accident.

Meanwhile, fighting continued in the security zone, with Hizbullah gunmen firing at IDF troops on operational duties in the zone's western sector early yesterday.

At the same time, gunmen also opened fire with mortars at an IDF outpost nearby. There were no casualties in either of the incidents and IDF gunmen returned fire.

Reports from Lebanon said gunmen also fired mortars at the IDF's Dabsha position in the zone's eastern sector, again without causing any injuries or damage.

News agency reports from Lebanon said a Hizbullah gunman was killed and another wounded in the ensuing exchanges. There was no confirmation of the reports from any other sources.

Yesterday evening, gunmen opened fire with mortars at South Lebanese Army outposts in the zone's eastern and western sectors. There were no casualties and IDF gunmen returned fire.



Labor Party MKs (from left) Ehud Barak, Uzi Baram, Ephraim Sneh, and Shlomo Ben-Ami stand at attention during the playing of the national anthem at yesterday's convention closing in Tel Aviv. (Ronen Engel/Israel Sun)

Sneh, Ben-Ami reject Beilin call to drop out of Labor leadership race

By SARAH HONIG

Labor leadership candidates MK Ephraim Sneh and MK Shlomo Ben-Ami rejected an appeal by MK Yossi Beilin, another candidate, to withdraw from the race.

Beilin had made the request to improve his chances against frontrunner MK Ehud Barak.

All four leadership hopefuls delivered speeches at Tel Aviv's Mann Auditorium to close the party convention last night. Outgoing party leader MK Shimon Peres walked out just before Barak's turn came.

The first speech, and the best according to audience reaction, was Beilin's. He began by extending an apology to Peres, his long time patron. "Dear Shimon, I apologize to you. I can only pray that the Likud's mistakes will overshadow the grievous error of last night." His supporters cheered loudly.

Beilin wondered "what the future image of this party will be. Will it be power politics and showdowns with multi-colored

balloons? Will we have a single leader who possesses a party? Or will we have a party with an ideology, which is headed by a leader?"

He urged Ben-Ami and Sneh, both of whom are seen as having far lesser chances than Barak and himself, to drop out "so that we like-minded people can form one bloc."

He attacked Barak for not supporting Oslo II, for supporting Ariel Sharon on Hebron, and for supporting even more construction on Har Homa than Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Beilin said he, too, can defeat Netanyahu.

Sneh, who followed Beilin, presented himself as the "feeling heart of the party. Power and brains are one thing, but how about feelings and heart? We cannot do without them." To Sneh's mind "the convention, billed as an ideological one, was a great miss." He charged that Labor had done little about leading the nation in domestic politics and asserted that it must have values and principles



Yossi Beilin

and consider all problems.

Barak was the third speaker, according to lots cast. He was welcomed by loud chants, but also by catcalls of "Bibi" by those Laborites who claim he is too sim-

ilar to the prime minister.

"I, too, have divided feelings about what happened at this convention," he said. "The showdown was not essential. I sought to prevent it, but once we reached the moment of decision, a democratic party could not escape the democratic verdict." He declared his confidence that "Shimon's political career will not be over on June 3. He will continue to inspire us."

Barak assured all those running against him that "there will be no vendettas and that the leading members of each camp will be members of the leadership team, should I win."

Ben-Ami expressed regret for the showdown between Peres and Barak. "There are situations which call for compromise and not for confrontation. The decision made was not a good one and I hope that it will not lead to a loss for Labor in the greater battle ahead."

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Russia, NATO reach a deal

News agencies

WASHINGTON — US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright says she was "very encouraged" by reports of an agreement on a charter to link Russia with the NATO military alliance.

Albright said yesterday she was looking forward to an account from Secretary-General Javier Solana, who held talks in Moscow with Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeny M. Primakov.

Primakov and Solana gave no details about the document but stressed that both sides were tough in negotiating to win as many concessions as possible.

Albright spoke briefly to reporters before meeting at the State Department with Russian Defense Minister Igor Rodionov.

Rodionov, meanwhile, praised the agreement at the Pentagon as a compromise that suits both sides. "I think it is very good," he said.

"It demonstrates the intentions of both sides to meet each other's interests," he said.

Russian hardliners predictably attacked yesterday's deal while liberal politicians and experts took a cautious line, waiting for more details to emerge.

"(The West) has often cheated Russia and they will probably cheat us this time as well because we have nothing to trade with," Albert

Makashov, a communist deputy in the State Duma lower house of parliament, told reporters.

Primakov and Solana said that after tough talks they had finally come to terms on the document aimed at mapping out relations between Moscow and the Western alliance.

Solana told a joint news conference the deal, also intended to address some of Moscow's concerns about NATO expansion, could be ready for signing in Paris on May 27 after President Boris Yeltsin and leaders of the 16 alliance members approve it.

A Russian Communist Party leader, Anatoly Lukyanov, said he was impressed by Primakov's tough bargaining but suggested the deal, hammered out by the minister with little space for maneuver, was unlikely to win wide public backing.

"Our contacts with Primakov in the Duma and in the Foreign Ministry show that he defended the only possible option," Lukyanov told reporters. "But in our opinion the agreement itself cannot be welcomed by society and cannot prompt positive emotions among deputies." Lukyanov said that, whatever the compromise, bargaining over the deal was humiliating for Russia.

"There is a battle raging over NATO expansion," he said. "But this is not a battle of equals."

In the course of talks, which started in January, Moscow said repeatedly it disapproved of NATO's decision to invite several eastern European countries to join the alliance.

But Russian leaders have said that a say in NATO decision-making and a firm promise never to move the alliance's military infrastructure eastwards could dispel some of its security concerns.

NATO said it had no plans to move forces to the east but has refused to give any formal guarantees for the future, arguing that this would hamper the rights of new members.

The Czech Republic's President Vaclav Havel, confident of being asked to join NATO, is urging US officials to limit concessions to Russia.

Talks have centered on assurances NATO doesn't plan to deploy nuclear weapons or station "significant" numbers of combat troops or conventional weapons on the territory of new members.

Havel said decisions about NATO force size and strength should be made with security strategy in mind. "But it should not be done because NATO has bound itself to such action in an agreement with someone else."

"The alliance may not feel the need to deploy additional troops," he told a news conference, saying that was for NATO alone to decide.

Turkish troops pour into Iraq to attack Kurds

By YALMAN ONARAN

BATMAN, Turkey (AP) — Turkey's military yesterday launched an offensive into northern Iraq to oust Turkish Kurdish guerrillas from their hideouts, the government said.

Turkish TV stations reported troops started to cross into Iraq at dawn at Habur, a border town 250 km south of this southeastern city.

It was the latest in a series of springtime cross border attacks by Turkey aimed at the autonomy-seeking rebels.

Iraq condemned the offensive, but there was little it could do. The area is under the control of Iraqi Kurdish groups, kept out of Baghdad's reach by a US-led allied air force.

Turkey's pro-Kurdish People's Democracy Party said 50,000 soldiers and 350 tanks crossed into northern Iraq.

"The figure is exaggerated," said Col. Husnu Dag, a military spokesman. "It is a small-scale, short-term operation." He refused to say how many soldiers were

involved, and the government provided no immediate casualty figures.

The Turkish Kurdish rebel group, known as the PKK, has an estimated 10,000 fighters in the mountains of southeastern Turkey and in northern Iraq.

The official Anatolia news agency said at least five separate Turkish Kurdish rebel bases were hit by the jets.

The first encounter with the rebels took place in the region of Sarisani, just across the border, according to Anatolia.

The troops had also trapped a large number of guerrillas at the regions of Sivi and Dutaza.

PKK rebels apparently had been fighting with an Iraqi Kurdish opposition group, the Kurdish Democratic Party, KDP, which controls the area along the Turkish border.

Defense Minister Turhan Tayan said the Turkish troops went into northern Iraq to help the KDP. He said the KDP was trying to protect the local population from PKK

"harassment." "We answered (KDP leader) Massoud Barzani's appeal for help," Tayan said.

Turkey has said the Iraqi Kurdish group must keep the PKK away from the Turkish border as a condition for allowing the US-led air force to operate from a Turkish base.

After 12 years of fierce fighting that has cost 28,000 lives, Turkey has pushed its war with rebel Kurds out of the cities and mainly to the mountains.

Turkey has launched major offensives in northern Iraq in recent springs to take advantage of good weather conditions in the mountainous terrain.

"This aggression contradicts Turkey's pledge to respect Iraq's sovereignty and integrity and also the principle of good neighborliness," the official Iraqi News Agency quoted an unidentified official as saying.

The official said the "invading troops" heavily damaged the border towns of Zakho and Imadiya. He called for an immediate withdrawal.

Tests start on James Earl Ray's rifle

RHODE ISLAND (AP) — The gun and bullet prosecutors say killed Martin Luther King Jr. were seen publicly for the first time in nearly 20 years yesterday in anticipation of tests that could change history.

The gun was removed from a padlocked black case marked "evidence" and the bullet was displayed in a clear plastic container at the University of Rhode Island crime lab. Weapons experts will test them to try to determine whether James Earl Ray killed the black civil rights leader at a Memphis, Tennessee, motel in 1968.

Ray believes the tests will show the bullet that killed King did not come from his .30-06 hunting rifle.

Defense lawyer Jack McNeil said even if the tests show the bullet came from Ray's gun, it does not prove Ray fired the weapon and he will continue to seek a trial.

"This is not the end all and be all," he said. "It's important, but the fact remains that from the very beginning James Earl Ray contended he was not there." John Campbell of the Shelby County, Tennessee, district attorney's office said he does not believe another trial will change anything.

Ray, 69, pleaded guilty to the killing in 1969 and was sentenced to 99 years in prison. But he recanted days later and has fought for a trial ever since.



Queen Elizabeth II, accompanied by Prince Philip, sits in the House of Lords yesterday at the opening of Parliament. (Reuters)

Queen opens new Parliament

News agencies

LONDON — With old pageantry, but different politics, Queen Elizabeth II yesterday opened a new session of Parliament, announcing the first legislative program drawn up by a Labor government for 18 years.

Prime Minister Tony Blair committed his new Labor government to a major program of constitutional reform aimed at making a decisive break with the years of Conservative rule.

Blair and his defeated Conservative predecessor John Major, their roles reversed by Labor's landslide election victory May 1, stood side by side with other commoners while the queen read the 15-minute speech.

Officials said the far-reaching legislative package reflected the priorities of a "people's government" and would begin the process of fulfilling the core election commitments that swept Labor to power on May 1.

"The new government will govern for the whole nation and give everyone — regardless of background — the chance to succeed in life," Blair's office said.

The program included major bills to set up

separate assemblies for Scotland and Wales, a ban on tobacco advertising, an elected mayor of London, and a 5-billion pound (\$8.2 billion) windfall tax on utility companies.

It represented the first move in implementing the centrist election platform on which Blair's revamped Labor party, stripped of socialist tenets, won power.

The program contains radical constitutional proposals while sticking largely to Conservative spending restraints and pledges not to raise personal taxes.

There was a reprieve for the crime-ridden members of the largely hereditary House of Lords who sat in front of the queen, who wore a long white gown and a crown.

Among the 26 bills the queen outlined, there was no mention of the government's plan to strip the scions of ancient, aristocratic families of the right to vote in the unelected upper House of Lords. They sit in the Lords alongside commoners given titles for life.

"It remains a commitment in our program, but it is not something we are going to do in the first year or 18 months," Peter Mandelson, Labor's campaign manager and

now a government minister, said in BBC television interview.

But he warned that if the Conservative-dominated Lords, who can delay bills for six months, try to frustrate Labor's program "there will be a head of steam growing very quickly for changes." The 71-year-old monarch arrived for the ceremony at Parliament with her husband, Prince Philip, in a horse-drawn state carriage flanked by a cavalry guard of honor.

Reading the speech written by the government, the queen also announced a bill to outlaw handguns — a radical measure following the massacre last year of 16 kindergarten children and their teacher in Dunblane, Scotland.

Despite Labor's warnings, some peers strongly opposed to the handgun ban are readying for a final confrontation with the Commons.

"You have to stand by your principles," the 21st Earl of Shrewsbury, who inherited a 15th century title, said this week.

"If they're going to do away with the hereditary principle in the Lords, we would rather be seen to go down fighting." In the 659-member House of Commons, Blair can expect little trouble. Labor, in its best-ever performance, won an overwhelming majority and has 180 seats more than all the other parties combined.

China returns hijacker to Taiwan

TAIPEI (AP) — China teamed up with Taiwan in their first joint effort against air piracy yesterday, sending back a Taiwanese journalist who hijacked a Boeing 737.

Despite the absence of official ties, China allowed 15 Taiwanese officials and policemen into its southern port of Xiamen to take custody of Liu Shang-chun and sail him to the nearby Taiwanese island of Quemoy, officials said.

Liu was taken out on a Taiwanese boat, despite Taiwan's ban on direct sea links with China, said the Straits Exchange Foundation, which handles exchanges with the mainland.

He was then flown from Quemoy to Taipei, the Taiwanese capital, to be charged, officials said.

Liu hijacked the jetliner of Far East Air Transport, a Taiwan company, to Xiamen on March 10 by

threatening to set fire to his gasoline-doused clothes. He was arrested, while the airliner returned to Taiwan with its 149 passengers and eight crew members.

China at first refused to hand Liu over, accusing Taiwan of failing to honor an unsigned agreement to repatriate Chinese hijackers. But it later changed its stand with an offer to join forces with Taiwan against air piracy.

Taiwanese officials have said they will reciprocate soon by sending back two Chinese hijackers, the first parolees among 16 Chinese hijackers convicted by Taiwanese courts.

Taiwanese officials say China has tentatively agreed not to retry them, but Taiwan wants a written guarantee.

"This is a good beginning," Taiwan Justice Minister Liao Cheng-hao said after Liu's return.

Zaire talks flounder; rebels advance

POINTE NOIRE, Congo (Reuters) — Confusion over the whereabouts of rebel leader Laurent Kabila delayed Zaire's peace talks yesterday, a senior mediator said on the South African ice-breaker that will host the meeting.

A rebel spokesman told Reuters by telephone that Kabila, whose forces have been advancing on Zaire's capital Kinshasa, was insisting on joining the ship only after it was in international waters. "We don't want to go to Pointe Noire for security reasons."

"We've been here in Cabinda for five and a half hours now. We are still talking about how we can go. We are willing to go to the ship and that is why we are here. But not to Pointe Noire."

South Africa's Nelson Mandela, who is trying to broker a transitional agreement and avert a rebel attack on Kinshasa, and Zaire's embattled president, Mobutu Sese Seko, waited on shore in Congo's main port of Pointe

Noire where the craft was docked.

In Kinshasa, an anti-Mobutu opposition stay-home protest all but closed down the usually teeming city of five million people. Shops and markets stayed closed.

"The success of today's operation has clearly shown that the people don't want Mobutu any more, and people know exactly what to do when the rebels come," said Laurent Mbayo, an adviser to Mobutu's veteran political opponent, Etienne Tshisekedi.

Zairean state radio said yesterday would be a fateful day that could determine the future of Africa's third largest and potentially one of its richest countries.

UN and Organization of African Unity special envoy Mohamed Sahnoun announced the talks delay. Speaking in mid-afternoon, he predicted the talks, described by another senior mediator as a last chance for peace, would start "within hours."

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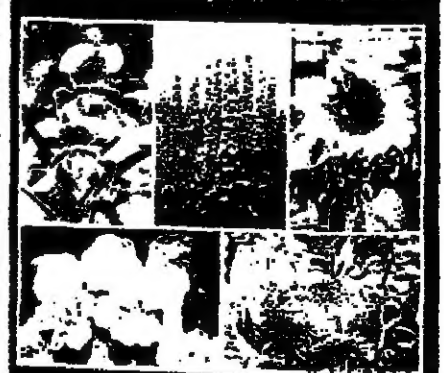
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Deathly land sales

The Palestinian Authority's call to impose the death penalty on any Arab selling land to Jews, as stated by Justice Minister Fehi Abu Medein earlier this month, and its apparent implementation last weekend in the abduction and killing of a Jerusalem resident, is an extremely grave matter which demands a forthright Israeli response.

In other circumstances, attempts to protect the sale of land to foreigners might be understandable. Many countries have laws and regulations which are aimed at preventing foreign citizens from attaining too much control over a country's land, for land is regarded as a precious national resource. In Israel itself, over 90 percent of the country's land is owned by the state and controlled by the Israel Lands Administration and the Jewish National Fund, through a complicated system of legislation. This archaic state of affairs, with its attendant economic distortions, is frequently justified in the name of national security. A truly free market for land would open the door to the possibility of non-citizens buying vast tracts of land.

And to be painfully honest, although Israeli law does not formally allow discrimination in land purchases among Israeli citizens, and there are places with mixed populations, there have also been instances in which serious attempts by Israeli Arabs to purchase housing in Jewish populated areas were met with stiff resistance.

The problem with the Palestinian Authority's attempts to forbid land sales to Jews is twofold. For one thing, its application extends to land which is outside of the PA's formal jurisdiction, and even Israeli Arabs with Israeli identity cards are liable to face punishment for going against the PA's wishes. No less troubling is the content of these statements, which are racist in tone and extremely harsh and brutal in the one penalty proposed — death.

The first implementation of PA Chairman Yasser Arafat's call on May 2 to prevent land sales to Jews did not take long. According to the Israel Police, Farid Bashiti, a Jerusalem land dealer, who was considered to have intimate dealings with the Israel Lands Administration, was kidnapped last week from outside Jerusalem's Ambassador Hotel, taken to Ramallah, and murdered. Bashiti's killing, according to media reports, was carried out by a secret security unit established by the PA precisely for this purpose. The PA tried to cover up the unit's actions by claiming that Bashiti died in a road accident, despite the fact that he was found dead from a blow to the back of his head, with his

hands tied behind his back. Abu Medein, charged with upholding the rule of law in the Palestinian Authority, pointedly refused to condemn the murder.

To put it mildly, this is completely unacceptable behavior. Aside from the barbarity of the murder itself, it is a blatant infringement on Israeli sovereignty that indicates the PA views all land in Israel as under its jurisdiction. No self-respecting country can permit a situation in which its residents can be kidnapped in its capital city and taken elsewhere to be interrogated or killed. If the atmosphere of fear, spread by freely operating PA agents, is allowed to develop among Jerusalem's Palestinian population, Israel's efforts to maintain its control of a united Jerusalem will be a lost cause even before the subject is raised in negotiations.

Indeed, the PA's police activities in Jerusalem, and even in Arab villages within Israel, are not new. They have been documented over the past three years in the media and are well known to both the Israeli authorities and the Palestinian population. At this point, a Palestinian living within Israeli territory wanting to settle a score with a neighbor can routinely call on the Palestinian Preventive Security Service to abduct the neighbors into PA territory, as happened recently in the Jerusalem neighborhood of Sur Bahir.

Shockingly, the Palestinian Legislative Council has not raised any protest against the gangland style killing of Bashiti, who was given no trial or opportunity to defend himself before he was, as if in a Mafia film, "taken for a ride." Neither has any PA official seen fit to condemn this execution. The fact that this sort of activity can be engaged in by elements within the PA, while elected officials and representatives acquiesce in silence, speaks volumes about the type of regime existing on Israel's doorstep.

US Congressman Benjamin Gilman, the House International Relations Committee chairman, this week took the initiative to condemn Bashiti's killing and to demand that the Palestinian Legislative Council vote against Medein's death penalty proposal. The State Department, on the other hand, refused to criticize Arafat and spokesman Nicholas Burns said he was unsure whether the US envoy had raised the matter with Arafat during his visit to the region. If the US is looking for confidence-building measures to get the peace process back on track, a condemnation of Bashiti's killing and the abrogation of the death penalty proposal for land sales to Jews would be a good place to start.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

BREAST CANCER IN MEN

Sir — I refer to your recent article on health, "Israeli women waking up to breast cancer." As someone who has, in the past two months, had her own breast-cancer scare, prior to leaving Israel for studies in San Francisco, I should like to commend your article; too much can never be written on the subject to raise our consciousness.

However, it pained me to read that only "a few men" marched from Liberty Bell Garden to Safra Square, obviously in solidarity with their women, without perhaps realizing the fact that men get breast cancer too.

Since being in America, I have seen more than one television talk show addressing male breast-cancer victims, and the additional "embarrassment" of having to deal with a cancer predominantly thought of as a women's disease.

I find it hard to imagine that there are no Israeli men who currently have to cope with all the implications of this terrible illness, and perhaps more has to be written and broadcast in the media to draw attention to the fact that men can get breast cancer too.

LOUISE ZUCKERMAN
San Francisco.

Sir — The ongoing debate in the media and among politicians concerning the results of the attorney-general's report on the Bar-On affair is obscuring a more fundamental crisis. This crisis has implications which are much more dangerous to the future of Israeli democracy and the release of ethnic tensions.

A Labor Knesset member who owes his seat to nothing other than the color of his skin and his country of origin turned to the High Court of Justice to reject the choice of Shmuel Schnitzer as the recipient of the Israel Prize for his more than 50 years of journalistic excellence. The appeal was based upon a charge of racism against Mr. Schnitzer, a charge vigorously denied by him and others who are familiar with him and his work.

OFFENSIVE ALLEGATIONS

Sir — As a visitor to Israel from the US, I find Michael Widlanski's column of April 27 to be filled with outrages. First, he would like to compare (and thus excuse) the Bar-On appointment with various less-than-first-rate appointments made by US presidents over the years. But the Bar-On appointment is notorious not so much for the quality of the appointee as it is for the scandal surrounding the appointment. No similar scandal was alleged with any of the so-called "failed" US appointments mentioned by Widlanski. And how dare he lump together as "failed" (or "some-what-failed") — I love that one! — Alexander Haig, Janet Reno and a host of other distinguished Americans who may have served the US briefly or not at all for various reasons, and compare these with the Bar-On appointment? Even more offensive, however, is Widlanski's statement that:

WEATHER REPORTS

Sir — Why are we Israelis so neurotic? In the *Post* of April 27, there is a large ad by a group condemning CNN for giving the weather reports of the capital cities of each country excepting Israel, where Tel Aviv's weather is given and not Jerusalem's. For their information, the weather for South Africa is given for Johannesburg, whereas the capital city is Pretoria! Is this too some dastardly antisemitic act? MARSHA EDELSTEIN
Ra'anana.

BERNARD RAAB
Silver Spring, MD.

OUTRAGEOUS DECISION

Admittedly without reading the one offending article upon which the appeal was made, the court ordered the prize committee to review its choice. The implications of this outrageous decision upon ethnic relations are mind-boggling. A Pandora's box of specious legal actions will undoubtedly soon flood the court calendar ranging, say, from being overlooked for job advancement to being second choice in a beauty contest. The gamut is limited only by the imagination.

Worse, the freedom to express one's thoughts in speech and writing without fear of judicial action is endangered by this precedent established by a court which has arrogated to itself authority in areas which may arguably be outside of the legal sphere.

In *The Federalist Papers*, the authors of the United States Constitution defined what they called the "diseases most incident to democratic government." These included "zealous opinions concerning religion, tyrannical majorities, angry and malignant passions, a factious spirit, and, particularly, the dangerous ambition that often lurks behind the specious mask of those who begin their careers by paying obsequious court to the people, commencing demagogues and ending tyrants."

In its short existence, the Israel body politic has shown itself to suffer from all of these afflictions. The court has now made a major contribution to what my turn into an epidemic.

JAY SHAPIRO
Ginot Shomron.

LEIF 97



Spying on friends

The attempt by US security circles to smear Israel's good name has mega-boomeranged, following the *Washington Post's* disclosure of a high-level mole working for Israel operating in US intelligence circles.

Senior American intelligence specialists are deeply dismayed at the results of what was clearly a botched hatchet job against the Jewish state.

As a result of the newspaper's "leak," one of the National Security Agency's most precious secrets has been blown: The world now knows that NSA had perfected a superbly efficient and complex intercept technique, one beyond the imagination even of spy thriller writers.

Shock waves of seismic proportions were felt by officials at agency headquarters when they opened the paper and read all about their interception of a phone call between a senior Mossad agent in Washington and his superior in Tel Aviv.

Israeli and European security chiefs alike were astonished by the startling expose. "They thought somebody at NSA must have had a brainstorm," said a now-retired senior intelligence official with much experience in US security matters. "NSA does not disclose anything whatsoever about its activities."

When the *Washington Post* broke the shattering news that an Israeli mole codenamed Mega had been asked to procure the secret letter of assurances sent by former secretary of state Warren Christopher to PLO chief Yasser Arafat following the Hebron withdrawal, Israeli intelligence chiefs could hardly believe their ears.

For the lion that roared mightily from the *Post's* printing press had given birth to a very small mouse indeed. The contents of Christopher's letter had, after all, appeared in *Ha'aretz* not long after it was sent.

However, of far greater import than the amateurish "scoop" that would have shamed the editor of a comic book, what alarmed security highups in Israel was the fact of the intercept itself.

It had only one meaning... that Israel's much-vaunted electronic code system, called Silon (geyser in Hebrew) had been broken by NSA specialists.

About Silon, a French diplomat at one time strongly connected to Israeli military and security circles had this to say:

"The Israelis have such a wealth

URI DAN
DENNIS EISENBERG

of computer and electronic expertise, it was clear to me without anyone giving away any secrets that their variable communication system was foolproof, and totally secure. To keep it that way it was constantly checked and upgraded.

This is still the opinion of specialists we have spoken to, one of

The National Security Agency is working so hard eavesdropping on Israel that it neglects its real job: tracking the West's enemies

whom told us: "The Americans are terrific when it comes to interception. But even so, there was only one way they could have broken Silon. And that is through a NSA mole operating inside Israeli intelligence."

"I am certain that the Israelis are working full blast right now, weighing the consequences of the NSA interception."

The very same fears are jolting European intelligence services — particularly in Paris, where there has been a strong suspicion of NSA spending huge sums in bribing local security operatives worldwide to hand over top-secret electronic codes.

For the clue to the secret of the NSA penetration we need to go back over a decade, when the Russians shot 25 CIA local communication operatives. The man who betrayed them was CIA agent Aldrich Ames, who hid his treachery by telling his superiors that it was Jonathan Pollard who had revealed the operators' identities, via Israel, to the Soviet Union.

The possibility that there is an Israeli traitor in our intelligence community cannot be disregarded, for it has happened before.

Foreign newspapers revealed that an Israeli intelligence officer had been imprisoned in 1986 for selling secret information to Washington. He was tried secretly, and sent to prison.

Shimon Peres, then prime minister of a national unity government, agreed, with the backing of

Yitzhak Rabin, to keep the matter quiet so as not to jeopardize relations with the US.

In 1982, during the Lebanese war, another Israeli was caught doing the same thing.

And Mordechai Vanunu betrayed his country by selling atomic secrets for a large sum of money. It was later dwarfed by the \$12 million-plus Brig-Gen. Rami Dotan took from an American aircraft manufacturer to purchase jet engines that were not necessarily the right ones for Israel's needs.

In short, there are native-born Israelis who are willing to sell their souls and endanger their country.

THE top priority now for Israeli and European intelligence chiefs following the *Washington Post* fiasco is to examine every aspect of a new situation in which their secret codes are an open book to the US.

Almost certainly the codes will have to be changed. There will also need to be a fresh staff screening operation. It all adds up to much work and heavy expense.

As for NSA, it will have to write off the many millions spent on creating sophisticated interception techniques, and start afresh recruiting an expanded informer network.

The FBI is said to be holding an investigation into the Mega mole theory.

There have been suggestions that despite the commotion over Mega, it was in reality just an ordinary telephone conversation. But the FBI is investigating what it calls an "intercept communication."

NSA bosses will also want to know why the "leak" to the *Washington Post* was not carefully vetted to avoid embarrassing the organization and revealing a key secret.

What troubles Israel's intelligence services is that NSA's main preoccupation seems to be eavesdropping on conversations between friendly powers, when its real task should be keeping watch on hostile nations and amassing vital information on international terror.

The Mega fiasco will make this job even more difficult, since now the West's foes will also be taking precautions to protect their communication methods.

The writers are authors of *The Mossad: Secrets of the Israel Secret Service and other books on the Middle East*.

The viewer sellout

MARK L. LEVINSON

I think the Shopping Channel is a decoy.

Jackie Gleason, the American comic, once told a story about his father, who hated fish.

Gleason's mother served him a slice of cod and a couple of dumplings. "If you don't want the fish, at least eat the dumplings," she said.

The old man didn't know that the dumplings he was enjoying were made of gefilte fish.

I think that the cable TV people in Israel gave us the Shopping Channel — huckstering at its crassest — like a pallid, rubbery slice of cod served for the purpose of being rejected as we proceed to consume the same thing in disguise.

Television today, under nominal government supervision, is a dumpling made mostly of profiteering; and it is getting fishier.

Scarcely have we come down from dismantling our rooftop antennas than the Peled Committee, embraced by the government, is announcing that we should all put satellite dishes up there to receive additional programming in the name of healthy competition.

There are two dozen empty channels on cable, but the government would rather induce us to purchase another infrastructure than let these new competitors use the existing one.

Meanwhile, let's make the basic cable service cheaper, says the Peled Committee, and only those who want extra cable channels will pay more.

You'll forgive me for assuming in advance that the good stuff on cable will be way extra.

IS this the same country where, in the 1970s, color was erased from TV broadcasts to spare the economy from overspending on home entertainment?

There's a very fishy odor emanating from my TV set these days, accompanied by the constant clinking of coins

Is this the country that gave us the *Kolbotek* consumer broadcasts, Arabic lessons with Shaike Ophir, the *Pillar of Fire* history series?

Alas, it's not even the same country that, several years ago, stopped the Lebanese evangelical station from broadcasting in Hebrew. Now our Christian neighbors there can propagandize us freely, as long as they run ads for Israeli businesses.

The Peled Committee sells us all out, from the squalling sabbath schoolchild to the stooped Ethiopian kesa.

It wants to abolish educational TV and army radio, and it already has approval for five new commercial stations: news, Arabic, religion, music, and Russian/Amharic.

What kind of news are we going to get from a station that runs on advertising? Judging from other countries' experience, lots of interviews with the young and glib to make us feel chipper about the world, and lots of sensationalist reporting to make us say, "Thank goodness we're better off."

We will get only what will keep us contented and trusting as we enter the pause for advertisements. It will be programming for people with money to spend, displaying nothing to offend the fatcats or furrow the public brow.

How can a Russian/Amharic channel serve immigrants properly when its primary purpose is to sell them as much merchandise as possible? How can a religious channel serve both God and Mammon? Will there be nothing educational?

Left to the mercies of capitalism, educational programming in America has gone largely unfunded. Are private philanthropists here any richer or bigger-hearted?

For the first time in its history Israel has a businessman as prime minister. The government wants to distance even the schools themselves from its cashbox, while paradoxically hoping that science-based industry will make us all prosperous. But in Britain the Thatcherist government, with its emphasis on small government and big business, has fallen.

The time is likely to come here, too, when the voters wake up and smell the fish. It is not getting any fresher.

The writer is a Herzliya-based freelancer.

PICTURE POSTSCRIPT



Even elderly Orthodox men have a little boy in them, yearning to break out sometimes. The swinging couple was spotted in Miami Beach. (Len Kaufman / Confidential Magazine)

POSTSCRIPTS

THEY'RE STILL laughing about this at the *Washington Jewish Week*: someone at that newspaper received a letter in the mail bearing one of those American "Hanukkah" stamps. Blazoned across the stamp was a postmark that read, naturally, "PLEASE MAIL EARLY FOR CHRISTMAS."

MAGGOTS THAT thrive on dead body tissue could be the latest weapon for plastic surgeons trying to save a patient's limb, a British doctor said.

Kenneth Graham, a plastic surgeon at University College Hospital in London, said he had used maggots to heal up badly infected wounds in six patients — with a little tickling sensation the only side-effect.

Graham said the maggots had several beneficial effects. They secrete an enzyme that breaks down dead tissue as they feast. Fluid that builds up in the wound washes away bacteria. He said the maggots also create alkaline conditions which are conducive to healing.

Graham said patients do not have to spend any time in surgery or in a hospital room.

One patient was "walking down Oxford Street" in London hours after treatment, with the maggots quietly doing their work as he shopped, Graham said.

Laying limits for missile warfare

The president of Tel Aviv University, an international law expert, is trying to draft global guidelines on the conduct of air battle, Steve Rodan reports

Iran's got them. Syria's got them. Even the Palestinians are trying to get them. That's the story of the Middle East missile race confronting Israel.

Far from the missile batteries in Yoram Dinstein, who is trying to figure out if all this is legal.

Dinstein, a prominent expert on international law and president of Tel Aviv University, is one of the organizers of an effort by leading jurists to draft guidelines on the conduct of air war. The questions his panel, working in San Remo, Italy, are addressing include the following: When can countries use missiles and against what targets; what targets can be bombed from the air; how can the international community maintain no-fly zones; and how can airborne medical relief be ensured?

In other words, Dinstein says, how do countries at war ensure that civilians on the ground don't bear the brunt of the battle?

The first and only time an international agreement was drafted on air battle was in 1923, before the days of missiles or strategic bombing.

"Until 1943, bombers were so imprecise that they did not cause any military damage," Dinstein says. "Moreover, the entire issue of missile warfare is so new, and Israel has probably more experience in facing the missile threat than most."

The Arab missile buildup, Dinstein points out, has been formidable. Syria is said to have 1,000 missiles. Iran is developing a huge arsenal. The Palestinians, Israeli security sources say, are trying to smuggle in Katyusha rockets. The matter is further complicated given that in an air war, decisions are far more rapid than in either a battle on sea or land.

"In land warfare, you have a flag," Dinstein says. "You could put up signs. You could do the same with ships and anybody can see whether that ship is neutral. But in the air everything is so fast, it requires immediate decisions."

The missile issue is perhaps the most immediate and least understood, Dinstein says. How can a country fire missiles at another and claim that they are not being aimed at civilians? During the 1991 Gulf War, Dinstein says, the Iraqis fired 42 missiles at Israel. All but a handful were fired toward Tel Aviv.

That conclusion, however, would clearly favor the Western nations, whose missiles are far more accurate than those in the Middle East. In the Gulf War, the US Tomahawk missile had a reported accuracy of 85 percent, high enough, in Dinstein's view, to allow its limited use to destroy military targets in enemy cities such as Baghdad.

"What if one side has smart bombs and the other doesn't?" Dinstein asks. "Smart bombs might be too expensive, or one side can claim that why should it use smart bombs when the other side doesn't?"

Currently, Dinstein says, international law has not addressed the missile issue. In 1987, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Britain and the US agreed on the guidelines of the transfer of equipment and technology related to missiles, known as the MCTR. This agreement addresses proliferation rather than the use of missiles in war.

So, the questions persist. What about the use of nonconventional warheads? The 1993 Convention on the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and their Destruction, contains the unconditional ban on the use of chemical weapons. This would theoretically mean that a country struck by enemy chemical warheads could not retaliate in kind.

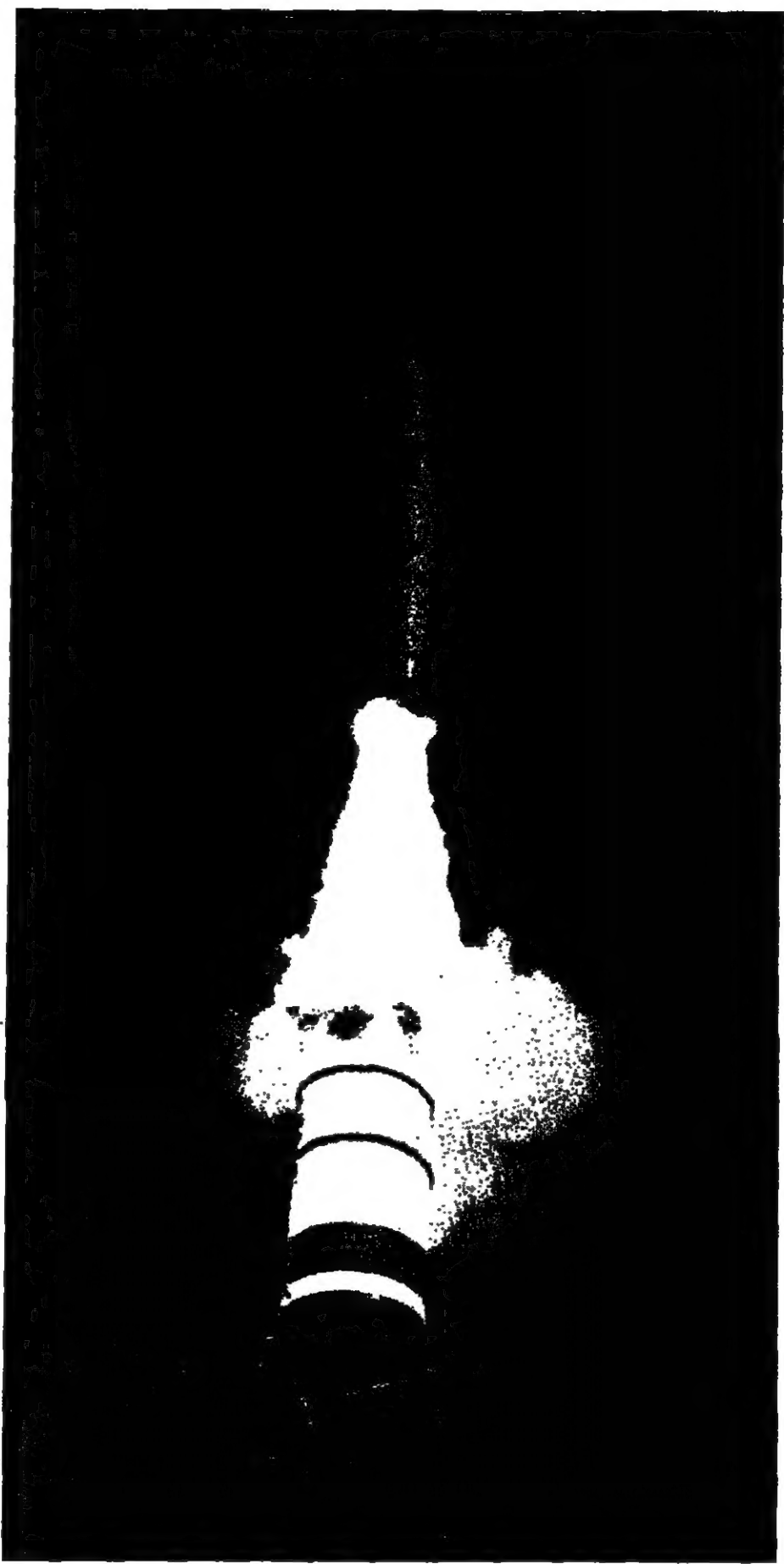
NUCLEAR WEAPONS, however, appear to have legal sanction. In July 1986, the International Court of Justice at the Hague was asked about the allowance of nuclear weapons. The court's opinion was fuzzy, Dinstein says, but did not rule out their use.

The international court ruled that the conduct of nuclear war is related to the use of force enshrined in the United Nations Charter and that "the use of force that is proportionate under the law of self-defense, must, in order to be lawful, also meet the requirements of the law applicable in armed conflict."

The court added, "However, in view of the current state of international law, and of the elements of fact at its disposal, the court cannot conclude definitively whether the threat or use of nuclear weapons would be lawful or unlawful in an extreme circumstance of self-defense,



Prof. Yoram Dinstein



Fire away: International law has not addressed missile warfare.

stage of launch.

The result is that the missile debris is scattered on enemy territory. If the warhead of the destroyed missile is nonconventional then the results could be disastrous for the aggressor.

William Dalton, acting deputy general counsel of the US Defense Department, addressed this issue at the Gillman colloquium. He points to the United Nations Charter, Article 51, which does not impair the right of self-defense "if an armed attack occurs..." Dalton says the language is vague. Does it mean that a threatened nation can preempt an attack? In its rules for engagement drafted in 1994, the US military allows for a preemptive strike.

What about terrorist organizations? Unlike states, they are difficult to penetrate, and target countries can rarely anticipate their actions. If Hamas or Islamic Jihad is planning to fire rockets from Gaza, for example, does Israel have the right of preemption?

Other questions involve the right of reprisals. The UN Charter appears to define reprisals as permissible only in the context of self-defense. Does that include a US reprisal for the bombing of the US military barracks in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, in which 19 US soldiers were

killed?

Dinstein says the formulation of guidelines on air warfare will take years of work. His last effort, a covenant on sea warfare, took 10 years at San Remo. In the aftermath of the colloquium, he says, the university will publish a book of all the scholarly papers presented. Next year, he hopes, he and other jurists will meet in Europe to obtain international input on the conduct of air warfare.

The TAU president acknowledges that a major problem with any guidelines drafted will be enforcement. The Middle East, he says, has the largest number of human rights violations. Chemical warfare has been conducted several times since the 1960s. Prisoners of war have usually been tortured.

But Dinstein says international law has not been ignored, even in this region, if only out of fear that it will lead to massive retaliation.

"A jurist always knows the law and the reality," he says. "If you look at the Ten Commandments, it says, 'Thou Shalt Not Kill.' Is there murder going on? Of course. But if you are a jurist you see this as an exception to the rule."

"In international conduct, there aren't that many incidents, but there are violations. This must be fought."

Not Page One

NIS 6 million at the end of the tunnel

By Sam Orbaum



Why Jerusalem needs this tunnel I can't understand.

No, not that tunnel. If you drive down Ben-Zvi Boulevard, with Wolfson Towers on your right and Sacher Park on your left, you come to Bezalel Street. (If you get to the Statue of Liberty, you've gone too far.) At Bezalel, you turn right to go to Shalom Felafel, or turn left onto newly-built Ma'ar Road, to drive through the capital's latest architectural marvel: the Ma'ar Tunnel.

Or is it a bridge?

It's a huge waste of money, that's what it is. As popular wisdom has it, a tunnel is something that goes through or under, with the assumption that there's something above or around it. It's a concept so basic I'm sure they don't even explain it in Tunnel Building 101.

If you're lucky enough to get a red light at Bezalel, take a quick look at the tunnel. It's a handsome piece of work - faced with expensive Jerusalem stone, with a pretty design up front. It's four lanes wide and 120 meters long, well lit and utterly overdone. You know what's above it? Its own roof.

The tunnel's only use is as a bridge. For the benefit of readers who don't live across the street, a brief description of the environs would be helpful. Sacher Park (or, to softballers trying in vain to claim a little space, Soccer Park) is a lovely green stretch lined with broken glass for half a year following Mimonina celebrations. A year ago the municipality ran a road through it to link up two sectors of the city. The road, a good idea in itself, cut off a tiny chunk of the park from the remainder, but it hardly mattered, because that northern tip was not used much.

Somebody at City Hall decided it was worth spending NIS 6 million to maintain the continuity, and a few more grushim to build a children's playground on the northern tip. I suppose to justify the need for the ground-level tunnel.

I thought I'd call City Hall for the usual good explanation... "Thank you for calling City Hall, how can I help you?"

"Hello, I'd like some information please, about the Ma'ar Tunnel."

"Quite a scandal, isn't it, sir? I'm sure the mayor will want to apologize personally. If you don't mind waiting for just a moment I'll put you right through."

No, you're right, it didn't happen quite like that.

"Hello, City Hall?"

"What?"
"I'd like..."
"Wait!"
"Hello? Hello?"
"Nobody's here. Everybody's busy. Call back tomorrow."
"Whom should I call to ask about the cost of building the Ma'ar Tunnel?"
"Who are you?"
"A taxpayer."

"Then it's none of your business."

That's more like what we've come to expect, but it's even further from the truth. An exceedingly helpful lady named Ariela at the municipality's Spokesman's Office took down all my questions and promised to call me back. And she did. She then put me in touch with a spokesman for Hevrat Moriah, which together with Minerav Co. developed and built the road.

"The tunnel was a condition of the municipality for building the road. They wanted to maintain the park's continuity," the spokesman explained. Why not just reduce the park's size by about 5 percent by ending it at the road, and save the money? The city, he answered, wasn't prepared to consider that option.

All right, then: why couldn't they build a much more modest footbridge, if it was so critical to

If you're lucky enough to get a red light at Bezalel, take a quick look at the tunnel.

connect Sacher Park with its forlorn appendage? (The Moriah spokesman gave a figure of NIS 3 million for such a structure.) The playground could have been set up on the other side, though even that's negligibly necessary: the park already has a playground.

Six million shekels. Was there nothing more urgent to spend it on?

Maybe they could recoup the expenditure with a bit of shrewd direct taxation, like setting up a tollbooth on top of the tunnel, and charging toddlers a shekel each to get to the playground. At the rate it's used, let's see... 30 shekels a day, six days a week (we'll let 'em use it free on Shabbat)... it can easily be paid off by the year 2638.

If Hamas or Islamic Jihad is planning to fire rockets from Gaza does Israel have the right of preemption?

The Iraqis, Dinstein says, claimed that they were aiming at the Israel's Defense Ministry, which he calls a legitimate military target. But not one missile even came close to the ministry compound.

"This was indiscriminate bombing," Dinstein says. "You have to fire on military targets and ensure that the action achieves its purpose."

Rein Mullerson, a professor of international law at King's College in London, agrees. At TAU's Howard Gillman International Colloquium on Air and Missile Warfare, Mullerson argued that the Iraqi attacks on Tel Aviv and Riyadh were meant to terrorize civilians rather than destroy military targets.

"Expensive, inaccurate and highly destructive weapons will only produce [the] desired effect when hitting soft and unprotected large targets, such as civilians or civilian objects," Mullerson said.

in which the very survival of a state would be at stake.

Other issues include the legality of anti-missile defense. Could Israel, for example, preempt an enemy missile attack and claim it was acting in legitimate self-defense?

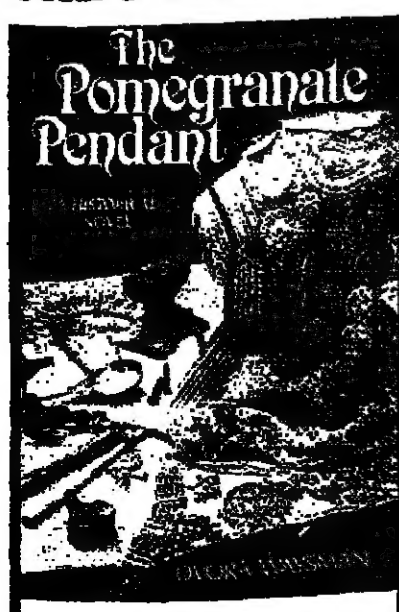
It's a question that US officials debated several years ago when approving American funding for the Arrow anti-missile defense system, diplomatic sources recall.

The US experts concluded that the Arrow, which attempts to intercept and destroy enemy missiles in the targeted country, does not pose any legal problems in international law.

But Israel and the US are working on another missile system that some US experts find problematic. This is the Boost Phased Intercept, in which an enemy missile is destroyed in the first

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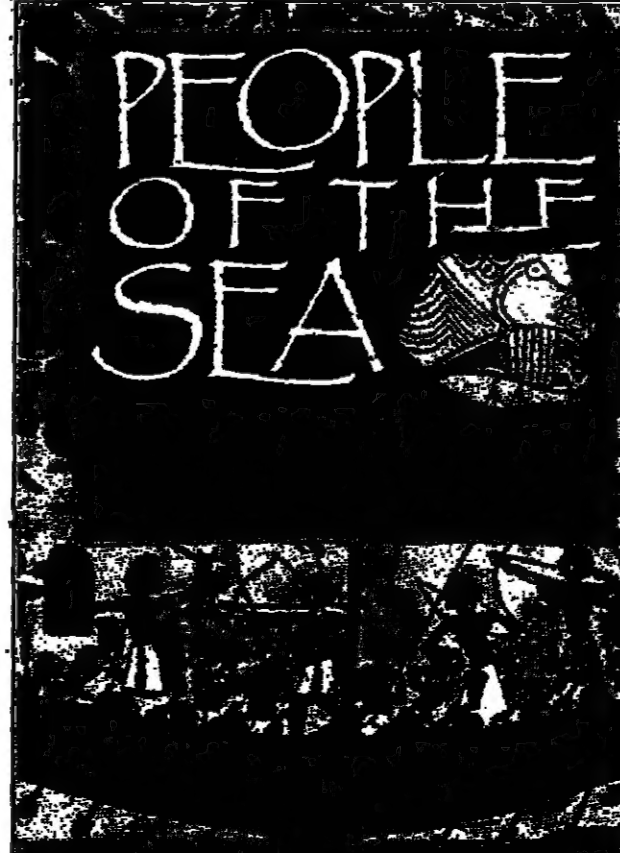
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RESULTS

in brief

Gilat net up 15% to \$3.1m.

Gilat Satellite Networks Ltd. yesterday reported a 15 percent increase in first-quarter net profits to \$3.1m, compared to \$2.7m. in the same period last year. Revenues for the quarter totalled \$21.1m., a 36% increase over the corresponding period in 1996. On Monday, the company successfully completed the private placement of \$75m. worth of convertible subordinated notes. The notes, which are due in 2004, will not be redeemable for three years from the date of issuance. They will be convertible into Gilat ordinary shares at an initial conversion price of \$42 per share. Some of the money raised through the offering will be used to finance the establishment and operation of telephone networks in remote regions.

Jennifer Friedlin

Crystal Systems moves into red

Crystal Systems Solutions Ltd.'s first-quarter net losses totalled \$239,000, compared to net income of \$386,000 in the same period last year. The company's revenue soared 441% to \$3.56m. from \$658,000 in the corresponding period one year ago. Following the release of the results on Monday, the Herzliya-based company's share price closed at \$18.50, a 5% increase over the previous day. The company said that the drop in income was the result of increased investment in research and development. The company invested \$435,000 in R&D in the first quarter of 1997, compared to \$171,000 in the first period of 1996.

Jennifer Friedlin

EduSoft net sharply up

EduSoft Ltd.'s first-quarter net income rose to \$460,000, compared to \$52,000 in the corresponding period one year ago. Revenue for the quarter jumped 75% to \$3.01m. compared to \$1.72m. in the first quarter of 1996. The company's stock jumped 33% to \$3.25 on Tuesday, following the release of the quarterly results. The company attributed the increase in revenues to improved sales in Latin America, Europe, and North America. EduSoft recently launched Virtual Classrooms, its Internet-based educational applications. Based in Tel Aviv, EduSoft develops multimedia educational software.

Jennifer Friedlin

Bank of Israel calls for creation of monetary council

By DAVID HARRIS

The Bank of Israel is proposing the creation of a new basic law for the bank and a board of monetary experts to aid the governor achieve the government-set monetary targets, central bank research department head Leo Leiderman said yesterday.

Governor Jacob Frenkel, who for the past two years was subjected to scathing attacks by industrialists and politicians who loathed his strong-shekel policies and sought to obstruct his maneuvering room, will present this proposal, along with a package of other recommendations for the reform of the central bank, to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu before the end of the month, bank sources said.

The document will call for the creation of a basic law for the bank to replace the existing Bank of Israel Law passed in 1954. Speaking at a top-level round-table discussion of the bank's future organized by the Israel Democracy Institute, Frenkel outlined four criteria:

- The importance of achieving stability in all the key areas according to government targets.

To do this, the bank is proposing the publication of a semi-annual report examining the performance

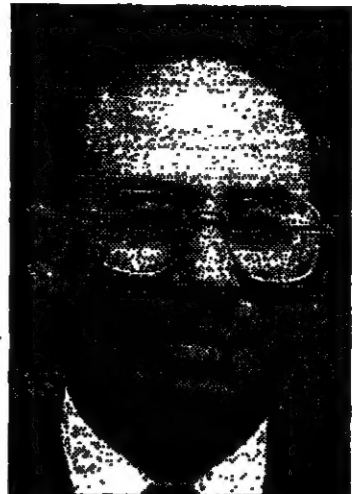
ment, Knesset, and public. • The establishment of a decision-making framework within



Dan Meridor

of the previous half year and expectations for the coming half. • The guarantee of full independence for the central bank to enable it to achieve the desired stability.

• The guarantee of transparency and accountability to the govern-



Jacob Frenkel

(Israel Herald)

ment. This includes the creation of a monetary board, to be headed by the governor and comprising experts independent of the bank.

All appointees would have to be free of any conflict of interest. "This will strengthen the stature

and capacity to act of the governor to achieve the government's targets," Frenkel said.

Any legislation must be originated by the government, according to Frenkel - a possible reference to former finance minister Avraham Shohat's now frozen attempt to change the Bank of Israel Law to include a board of governors.

Finance Minister Dan Meridor used the debate to attack the bank's apparent war on inflation to the detriment of all else.

"Some in the international Monetary Fund and perhaps Bank of Israel want to make fighting inflation their main role," he said. "I believe it is forbidden to make this the key aim. The independence of the bank should not be changed, but agreement must be reached over policy."

Joining the debate via video-phone from Vienna, IMF vice-president Stanley Fischer pointed out that evidence shows that where there is a fully independent bank, there is often higher growth.

The aim, according to Frenkel is for the Bank of Israel to follow Western European models, where independence of the bank is guaranteed in law.

Clal, Gura mull selling Clal Pharm

By JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

Clal Trading, the holding company that has a 50% stake in pharmaceutical retailer Clal Pharm, is exploring with Ze'ev Gura, owner of the company's remaining shares, the sale of the chain, Menahem Dotan, Clal Trading's spokesman, confirmed yesterday.

However, Dotan refused to confirm a report in *Ha'aretz*, which suggested the two will sign an agreement next week to issue a tender for the sale.

The article also said that Super Pharm would attempt to purchase the company, a step that would bring the issue before the Antitrust Authority. Before Super Pharm could purchase Clal Pharm, the authority would have to determine whether this would give Super Pharm a monopoly in the retail pharmaceutical market.

Both Lior Reiblat, director-general of Super Pharm, and David Tadmor, director-general of the Antitrust Authority, refused to comment.

"Any comment about the procedures of the Antitrust Authority would constitute a comment about [the article], and I don't want to comment about this," Tadmor said.

The talks between Clal and Gura reflect Clal Trading's broader strategy to sell off some of its diverse holdings and to focus on its core companies, Dotan said.

Clal Trading, whose holdings include shipping, overnight delivery, and biochemical concerns, reported a 90% drop in net profits in 1996 to NIS 2.21b. from NIS 23.35b. in 1995.

Two weeks ago, Clal Trading announced the sale of its holding in Poster Media.

Indigo sales drop, loss narrows

By JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

Indigo NV, the beleaguered manufacturer of electronic color

printing products which announced a restructuring program at the end of 1996, yesterday announced that it advanced toward the black in the first quarter of 1997.

The Dutch-based company, which has production facilities in Israel and an Israeli leadership, said net losses for the first quarter were down 18%, totalling \$17.8m., compared to \$21.6m. in the corresponding period last year. Meanwhile, revenue for the quarter was \$20.6m., a 27% drop from the same period last year.

Following the announcement of the results in New York on Monday, Indigo's Nasdaq-traded stock rose 6% to close at \$4.625. The stock continued its upward climb, trading at \$5.25 in early morning trading yesterday.

The company, whose massive restructuring program is designed to return it to its former glory as one of Israel's most internationally

lauded high-tech firms and to secure its position as a leader in the electronic printing market, said the results are in line with expectations.

"Nothing here was unexpected, not by us, not by the analysts," said CEO Benny Landa. "We have put a tremendous emphasis on sales capacity, doubling it since the end of the third quarter. We hope to see a reflection in the upcoming quarters."

However, some analysts said the results indicate that Indigo is quickly running out of time.

"I don't see a lot of future in this company," said Mark Meiras, managing director of Pacific Mediterranean, a Herzliya-based investment firm. "Companies like this give Israeli high-tech a bad name."

Jim Rashooti, an analyst at Lehman Brothers in New York, was more optimistic.

"We're seeing signs of improvement in the company's profitability

and some improvement in its gross margins. This is clearly not going to be a fast turnaround," Rashooti said.

In March, Indigo, which once traded at a high of \$60, announced a restructuring plan that resulted in the recent dismissal of its president and CEO as well as the president of Indigo America. Annual savings resulting from the recent management change are expected to be some \$2m. A restructuring charge in excess of \$3m. was recorded this quarter.

In March, the company also reported that it had received \$20m. through a private placement. The money is designated for research and development and to enhance its marketing channels. Since slashing its work force from 1,300 at its height in mid-1995 to 750 in March, the company has employed more salespeople, and expects to continue increasing its sales force in the coming months.

AIG: Mideast political twists don't affect us

By GABI BASHAN

"We have not been affected by the political changes that have

overtaken the region in the past year, and we are fully confident of the opportunities available here," Ralph Mosrino, board chairman of

American International Group (AIG), the US based insurance company, said yesterday.

Mosrino made this comment at a press conference announcing the company's commencing operations in Israel next Sunday.

AIG's prices will be up to 40 percent lower than market. CEO Bruce Waters said, however, that his company did not intend to sell at dumping prices.

"We have not come here to bite off a market share, but to make money," said Waters.

AIG's annual turnover stands at \$28 billion. By comparison, the Israeli insurance market volume altogether amounts to an annual \$5 billion. The company's 1996 earnings totalled \$2.9 billion.

AIG operates in 130 different companies and paysrolls a staff of 35,000.

Globes

TENDERS

The Israel Electric Corporation wishes to purchase the following goods/services:

Tender No.: 601459 For: Agreement for the provision of NT servers, based on Intel architecture
Cost of tender documents, including VAT: NIS1755 (nonreturnable)
Quantity: 60 (over 2 years) with the option to order an additional 65% during the two year period.
Stage A - Request for technical/commercial details, without prices.
Period of Agreement:
The rights and obligations resulting from the signing of an agreement will be as agreed, and will apply for a period of two years, with the option of a one year extension, all at the sole discretion of the Electricity Corporation.
This option may be exercised by the Electricity Corporation, at any time during the agreement period.
Participation pre-conditions:
1. On the day the bid is submitted, the bidder must appear in the Gartner List of group servers, for work at levels Tier 1, and Tier 2.
2. The bidder does not have on his staff a person who participated in writing the technical portion of the technical specification, and/or will be engaged in checking bids.
Last date for submitting proposals: June 15, 1997, at 11 a.m.
Additional Participation Pre-conditions:
A. Participation in the tender is also subject to complying with the preliminary conditions detailed in the Tender Regulations 1993, Para. 6(a) 1, 2, 3 (i.e., registration as required by law, compliance with mandatory specifications, and the holding of the permits required by law for businesses).
B. The Israel Electric Corporation reserves the right to allow a bidder who has not provided some required certificate, permit, license, or any other document, to make good this omission, within a period of time to be fixed by the Corporation.
The tender documents may be obtained Sunday - Thursday, at the Market Research and Tenders Dept., 11 Sderot Pal-Yam, Haifa, between 9 a.m. and 12 noon, on submission of a receipt, demonstrating payment (non-refundable) of the cost of the documents into the Corporation's account at the Postal Bank. Payment slips for making such payments are obtainable at the above address (Tel. 04-8615455/4). Before being purchased, the tender documents may be perused at the offices of the Market Research and Tenders Department, address as above, or the Sales Unit, 50 Yigal Alon, Tel Aviv, Ashdod Building, Entrance B, Floor 1, Tel. 03-8654641, 03-8654678, Sunday - Thursday, 9 a.m. - 12 noon.
Bids should be submitted in a sealed envelope, and placed in Tenders Box No. 1, in the Pal Yam Building, Haifa, address as above. No undertaking is given to accept the lowest or any bid.
NOTE: In appropriate cases, the Electric Corporation will give preference to suppliers, in accordance with the Tender Regulations (Preference for Locally Produced Goods, and Obligation to Extend Commercial Cooperation).
The Electric Corporation retains the right to negotiate, where this is legally permissible.
Because of the Shavuot holiday, the Corporation's offices will be closed on June 10 & 11.

TENDERS

The Israel Electric Corporation wishes to purchase by tender:

Tender No.: 603874 For: Water and Steam Analyzing System
Specification: CM-505
Cost of tender documents, including VAT: NIS 1755
Stage A - Request for technical proposals
Participation pre-conditions:
1. The bidder must have well proven technical services and maintenance facilities in Israel.
2. The bidder or the bidder's subcontractor/consulting company must have proven experience in the design, supply, erection and commissioning of water and steam analysis systems in power stations, the systems to be in accordance with EPRI or TUV requirements.
3. The project staff shall include the contractor's permanent employees only.
Last date for submitting proposals: July 21, 1997, at 11 a.m.
Additional participation pre-conditions:
A. Participation in the tender is also subject to complying with the preliminary conditions detailed in the Tender Regulations 1993, Para. 6(a) 1, 2, 3 (i.e., registration as required by law, compliance with mandatory specifications, and the holding of the permits required by law for businesses).
B. The Israel Electric Corporation reserves the right to allow a bidder who has not provided some required certificate, permit, license, or any other document, to make good this omission, within a period of time to be fixed by the Corporation.
The tender documents may be obtained Sunday - Thursday, at the Market Research and Tenders Dept., 11 Sderot Pal-Yam, Haifa, between 9 a.m. and 12 noon, on submission of a receipt, demonstrating payment (non-refundable) of the cost of the documents into the Corporation's account at the Postal Bank. Payment slips for making such payments are obtainable at the above address (Tel. 04-8615454). Before purchasing the tender documents, they may be perused at the offices of the Project Management Department, at the above address. Bids should be submitted to the Secretary of the Project Management Department, Room 710, Floor 7, Pal Am Building, Haifa, at the above address, by the above stated time.
No undertaking is given to accept the lowest or any bid.
NOTE: In appropriate cases, the Electric Corporation will give preference to suppliers, in accordance with the Tender Regulations (Preference for Locally Produced Goods, and Obligation to Extend Commercial Cooperation).
The Electric Corporation retains the right to negotiate, where this is legally permissible.
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Maximum 30 words

List category and sub-category.

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ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS

| Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) (11.9.96) | | | | |
|--|----------|----------|-----------|--|
| Currency (deposit for): | 3 MONTHS | 6 MONTHS | 12 MONTHS | |
| U.S. dollar (\$250,000) | 4.750 | 5.000 | 5.375 | |
| Pound sterling (£100,000) | 3.875 | 4.000 | 4.250 | |
| German mark (DM 200,000) | 1.825 | 1.825 | 1.825 | |
| Swiss franc (SF 200,000) | 0.825 | 0.750 | 1.000 | |
| Yen (10 million yen) | | | | |

(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (14.5.97)

| CHECKS AND TRANSFERS | | BANKNOTES | | Rep. |
|-------------------------|--------|-----------|------|--------|
| Buy | Sell | Buy | Sell | |
| Currency basket | 3.6522 | 3.7173 | — | 3.6942 |
| U.S. dollar | 3.3949 | 3.4182 | 3.30 | 3.3990 |
| German mark | 1.9736 | 2.0035 | 1.93 | 1.9913 |
| Pound sterling | 5.5036 | 5.5824 | 5.40 | 5.5818 |
| French franc | 0.5890 | 0.5955 | 0.57 | 0.5913 |
| Japanese yen (100) | 2.8245 | 2.8375 | 2.78 | 2.8308 |
| Dutch florin | 1.7648 | 1.7830 | 1.72 | 1.7710 |
| Swiss franc | 2.3275 | 2.3551 | 2.29 | 2.3533 |
| Swedish krona | 0.4398 | 0.4489 | 0.43 | 0.4440 |
| Norwegian krona | 0.4773 | 0.4850 | 0.46 | 0.4818 |
| Danish krona | 0.5185 | 0.5267 | 0.50 | 0.5232 |
| Finnish mark | 0.8545 | 0.8621 | 0.84 | 0.8509 |
| Canadian dollar | 2.4238 | 2.4930 | 2.38 | 2.4468 |
| Australian dollar | 2.6180 | 2.6803 | 2.57 | 2.6453 |
| S. African rand | 0.7510 | 0.7632 | 0.68 | 0.7389 |
| Belgian franc (10) | 0.9582 | 0.9717 | 0.93 | 0.9647 |
| Austrian schilling (10) | 2.8032 | 2.8495 | 2.75 | 2.8296 |
| Italian lire (1000) | 2.0024 | 2.0347 | 1.98 | 2.0218 |
| Jordanian dinar | 4.7459 | 4.8225 | 4.68 | 4.8098 |
| Egyptian pound | 0.9800 | 1.0400 | 0.96 | 1.0707 |
| ECU | 3.8493 | 3.9714 | 3.80 | 3.8856 |
| Irish punt | 5.1019 | 5.1842 | 5.01 | 5.1559 |
| Spanish peseta (100) | 2.3385 | 2.3763 | 2.29 | 2.3600 |

*These rates vary according to bank. **Bank of Israel.
SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

NY 100-83625-40

| | | | | | |
|-----------------|---------|--------|------------------|--------|--------|
| Local Corp. | 52.69 | -0.126 | Smith Graphics | 24 | -0.05 |
| Louisiana Land | 18 | -0.15 | Slyden Corp. | 50 | -0.25 |
| Louisiana P&T | 38.25 | -0.25 | Smith Inc. | 50 | -0.5 |
| Lower's De Inc | 63.5 | -1.875 | Smifene Bldg A | 38.75 | -0.625 |
| Lugant Truck | 38.25 | -0.15 | Swap-On Tools | 58.125 | -0.875 |
| Lufkin | 34.825 | -0.5 | | | |
| | | | Somaco Prods | 39.5 | -0.5 |
| Mapco | 6.125 | -0.125 | Stacy Corp ADX | 21.375 | -0.825 |
| MCI Commun | 58.575 | -0 | Staubach | 41 | -0.5 |
| MacDonald | 26.75 | -0 | Southern Co | 57.25 | -0.25 |
| Marlor Care | 31.375 | -0.375 | Sta S Brg Bld | 28.825 | -0.375 |
| Marston Inc | 52 | -0.25 | Stevens Inds | 55.625 | -0.5 |
| Marston | 127.875 | -2.75 | Southern Bell | 47.625 | -0.125 |
| Masco & M&L | 2.25 | -0 | Sparks Inds | 21.125 | -0.25 |
| Mass Corp | 36.875 | -0.375 | Sparks Corp | 24.875 | -0.375 |
| Maxco Corp | 26.75 | -0.25 | Standard Prod | 26.825 | -0.375 |
| Maximilium Corp | 28.25 | -0.625 | Steady Meter | 12.125 | -0.5 |
| Maxwell Inc | 28.25 | -0.375 | Steele Container | 12.125 | -0.5 |
| Mayday Corp | 25.875 | -0.125 | Storage Tachist | 4 | -1 |
| McDermott | 52.25 | -0.5 | Stevens Corp | 3 | -1 |
| McDonald | 58.375 | -0.25 | Sum America | 29.5 | -0.25 |
| McDonald Digos | 53.875 | -1.5 | | | |
| McGraw Hill | | | | | |

Total B 542 -23

FRANKFURT

| | |
|---------------|-------------|
| Alfa A3 | - |
| BASF | - |
| Bayer | 84.95 -1.25 |
| Chemiebank | - |
| Deutsche Bank | - |
| Dresner Bk | 60.15 |
| Hochst | 85.7 -1.15 |
| Ludwigsh | 58.2 -0.85 |
| Mannheim | 98.75 -1.1 |
| Mehring | 58.8 -0.2 |
| Porsche | 2580 -8 |
| Salomon | 98.75 -1.7 |
| Wohlgemut | 1158 -14.5 |

SOURCE: B&P COMSTOCK (DATE 14-MAY-87)

***In local currencies**

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SPORTS

in brief

Israel jump 10 spots in FIFA rankings

ZURICH (AP) — Israel leaped 10 slots in the latest FIFA World Rankings released yesterday. They are now in 43rd spot in the standings.

Powered by a 4-0 victory over Slovenia last month, Denmark climbed two spots to third behind Brazil and Germany in the May 1997 April 30 victory in Copenhagen moved Denmark to the top of Europe's World Cup qualifying Group 1 with 10 points, same as Greece but having played two fewer games. It also pushed the 1992 European champion past France and Spain, both of which were knocked down a rung to fourth and fifth.

Italy climbed one spot to sixth while the Dutch, which routed San Marino 6-0 on April 30, jumped three spots to seventh. The Czech Republic slipped two spots to eighth and were followed by Romania and Russia.

Juninho set to leave Middlesbrough

LONDON (Reuters) — Juninho has told relegated Middlesbrough that Saturday's English FA Cup final against Chelsea at Wembley will probably be his last game for the club.

Brazil coach Mario Zagallo has said he will only consider players with leading clubs when he assembles his squad for next year's World Cup and Juninho is desperate not to miss out. "I have to think of my career. I am still young, only 24, and I have to do what is best for me. It's important that I play for Brazil," said Juninho, after receiving the club's Player of the Year trophy.

Manchester United and Atletico Madrid are among the clubs said to be interested in signing the midfielder, who joined Middlesbrough for £4.75 million (\$7.6 million) from Sao Paulo in 1995.

Italian striker Fabrizio Ravanelli and Middlesbrough's other Brazilian star Emerson are also poised to leave. Manager Bryan Robson is reported as saying he will not force them to stay even though they signed four-year contracts last year.

Muster's dream melts away in Roman heat

ROME (Reuters) — Defending champion Thomas Muster saw his dream of a third successive Italian Open title die in the heat of a gruelling three-hour battle with unseeded Australian Scott Draper at the Foro Italico yesterday.

The third seed, unbeaten in Rome since the third round in 1994 and three times a winner, received treatment for dehydration after losing his second round match 7-6, 5-7, 7-5 in temperatures of 32 degrees Celsius.

Muster's exit leaves the tournament without four of its top five seeds after two rounds for the first time.

Reigning Wimbledon champion and fifth seed Richard Krajicek joined the list of big-name casualties when he surrendered in straight sets to German Marc-Kevin Goellner. The Dutchman, a finalist here last year, lost 7-6, 7-6 after losing the two tie-breaks 8-6 and 7-1.

The world's top two players Pete Sampras and Michael Chang lost in the first round on Tuesday.

Graf back on the rails after layoff

BERLIN (Reuters) — Returning rapidly to form after a three-month layoff, Steffi Graf cruised into the quarter-finals of the German Open yesterday with a brisk 6-3, 6-2 win over 24-year-old Romanian Ruxandra Dragomir in just 55 minutes.

But American number three seed Lindsay Davenport, the Olympic champion, was beaten in the second round by France's unseeded Sandrine Testud in the event's first big upset.

Graf was playing only her second singles match after 100 days out with a knee injury, during which time she lost her world number one ranking to Swiss Martina Hingis.

But chasing a record 10th Berlin title and undefeated in Berlin since 1985, the top seed showed a dramatic improvement from her error-prone three-set defeat of American Chanda Rubin in the previous round.

Wilander, Novacek punished for doping

LONDON (Reuters) — Former world number one Mats Wilander and Czech Karel Novacek were banned from tennis for three months yesterday after dropping their legal fight over drugs tests which showed the presence of cocaine in their blood.

The International Tennis Federation (ITF) said the pair had acknowledged the positive results of dope tests taken during the 1995 French Open but said they believed the cocaine was unwittingly consumed.

England to host triangular series in 1998

LONDON (Reuters) — England will host a triangular one-day cricket tournament for the first time next year.

South Africa and world champions Sri Lanka are the other teams involved in a four-match competition in August which will feature three qualifying games and a final.

The South Africans will have already played five tests and three one-day internationals against England starting in May, while Sri Lanka have been allocated a solitary test at the Oval at the end of August.

Ben Johnson sues to race again

TORONTO (Reuters) — Disgraced Canadian sprinter Ben Johnson launched a court action on Tuesday to win the right to race again and prove that he is still the world's fastest man.

The suit, filed in an Ontario court, alleges that Johnson's 1993 ban from international competition violated his ability to make a living.

"I just want to clear my name and to move on with my life," Johnson, 35, told a press conference in Toronto.

Baseball suspends Steinbrenner

CHICAGO (AP) — George Steinbrenner was suspended Tuesday from baseball's ruling executive council because of his lawsuit against the sport over the New York Yankees' marketing deal with Adidas.

For lawyers for Steinbrenner and baseball spent the day attempting to work out a settlement in which the lawsuit would be withdrawn, the council barred Steinbrenner and the Yankees from participation in all of the sport's governing committees. It did not bar him from running the Yankees.

Dunleavy named Trail Blazers head coach

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — Mike Dunleavy, who has known great success and crushing failure in six seasons as an NBA coach, was hired Tuesday to coach the young, talented and sometimes temperamental Portland Trail Blazers.

"Of all the jobs that were possibilities this year, this is by far the greatest opportunity," Dunleavy said. "The reason I'm here is I want to win a championship." Dunleavy has a 208-284 record as a coach, first in two winning years with the Los Angeles Lakers, then in four losing seasons with the Milwaukee Bucks, where he was coach and general manager.

He led the Lakers to the NBA Finals in his first season as a head coach, but was 25-57 in 1995-96. His last as coach at Milwaukee. He served as general manager for the Bucks last season.

SCOREBOARD

CRICKET — Draw for the quarter-finals of the Benson and Hedges Cup made yesterday: Leicestershire v Somerset, Yorkshire v Northamptonshire, Kent v Warwickshire, Essex v Surrey. Matches to be played on Tuesday, May 27.

Sports Editors: Joseph Hoffman and Ori Lewis

Barcelona win Cup Winners' Cup

ROTTERDAM (Reuters) — Barcelona won the European Cup Winners' Cup for a record fourth time last night with a 1-0 victory over Paris Saint Germain who became the eighth holders to lose in the final a season after winning the competition.

No team has yet won the Cup twice in succession since it started in the 1960-61 season.

Barcelona took the lead after 37 minutes when Brazilian striker Ronaldo scored from a penalty after Bruno N'Gotty had brought a sweet Barcelona build-up involving Sergi, Ivan de la Pena and Luis Enrique to an end by clattering into Ronaldo in the box.

Ronaldo made no mistake from the spot, scoring his 33rd goal of the season by sending PSG goalkeeper Bernard Lama the wrong way.

Barcelona thought they had taken the lead 10 minutes earlier when Portuguese defender Fernando Couto sent a curling header dipping just under the bar for what looked like a well-taken goal. But German referee Markus Merk had already blown for an infringement.

PSG went close to equalizing after 58 minutes when Patrice Loko shot against a post, and Leonardo blasted the rebound over the bar.

Barcelona were unlucky not to double their score three minutes from time when Luis Figo hit the bar with Lama well beaten.



PROFITABLE TRIP — Barcelona's Ronaldo flies through the air after being fouled in the area by PSG's Bruno N'Gotty in the European Cup Winners' Cup final in Rotterdam last night. Ronaldo himself converted the penalty which turned out to be the winning goal for the Catalan side.

Canada takes world ice hockey gold

HELSINKI (Reuters) — Owen Nolan of the San Jose Sharks had a goal and an assist as Canada beat Olympic champions Sweden 2-1 yesterday to win the world ice hockey title.

The victory capped a gritty comeback by the Canadians after they had lost the first game of the best-of-three final on Sunday. It was their 21st world title but only their second in the past 36 years.

The win ended a frustrating string of second place finishes for Canada that stretched back to the 1994 Olympics, won by Sweden in an overtime shootout.

Despite running into penalty problems in their earlier clashes with the Swedes, Canada continued to employ their familiar aggressive, hard-hitting style.

They controlled the pace of the contest from the opening faceoff and were indebted to some rock solid goaltending by Hartford Whalers' Sean Burke.

Burke, who started every game in the Canadian net, collected the gold

that had eluded him at the 1989 and 1991 world championships when the team returned home with silver.

Nolan, who was suspended for a game for his part in a brawl against the Czech Republic, finally made his presence felt on the scoresheet as well, setting up the opening goal and scoring the second.

Dean Evason, the only non-NHL player on the Canadian roster, netted the only goal of the first period when he hammered home a loose puck from the side of the Sweden net after goaltender Tommy Salo failed to control the rebound from a shot by Nolan.

Nolan added the second early in the second period when New York Islanders' Travis Green threaded a perfect pass through a crowd in the slot.

With Salo pulled in favour of the extra attacker, Michael Nylander ruined Burke's shutout bid when he snapped a wrist shot in off the far post, converting the powerplay opportunity with less than two minutes to play.

Kent grand slam powers Giants past Reds

CINCINNATI (Reuters) — Intentionally walking Giants slugger Barry Bonds must have seemed like a good idea at the time.

With Darryl Hamilton and Bill Mueller on second and third in the third inning, the Reds elected to walk Barry Bonds, preferring to take their chances with Jeff Kent.

Kent smashed a 3-2 pitch from Reds starter Dave Burba (3-4) over the left-field fence for his eighth homer of the season and fourth career grand slam, providing the Giants with all of their runs in a 4-1 victory over the Cincinnati Reds on Tuesday.

Shawn Estes allowed one run over 7 1/3 innings as San Francisco posted its third consecutive win.

Estes (5-2) gave up five hits with four walks and six strikeouts, holding the Reds scoreless through seven innings.

The Reds scored their lone run in the eighth.

Martins 11, Braves 5
In Atlanta, Bobby Bonilla's grand slam highlighted a seven-run fourth as the Florida Marlins beat the Braves 11-5.

The Marlins extended a 3-2 lead in the fourth as Paul Byrd came on for Braves starter Terrell Wade (1-3) and intentionally walked Gary Sheffield to load the bases.

Moises Alou drew a walk to force home a run and Bonilla launched his first homer of the season and sixth career grand slam for an 8-2 advantage.

| National League | | | | |
|------------------|----|----|------|--------|
| East Division | W | L | Pct. | GB |
| Atlanta | 20 | 12 | .625 | - |
| Florida | 22 | 16 | .579 | 4 |
| Milwaukee | 19 | 18 | .514 | 5 1/2 |
| New York | 20 | 18 | .526 | 6 |
| Philadelphia | 14 | 23 | .378 | 11 1/2 |
| Central Division | W | L | Pct. | GB |
| Pittsburgh | 19 | 18 | .514 | - |
| Houston | 20 | 19 | .513 | - |
| St. Louis | 16 | 21 | .432 | 3 |
| Chicago | 11 | 25 | .306 | 7 1/2 |
| Cincinnati | 11 | 25 | .306 | 7 1/2 |
| West Division | W | L | Pct. | GB |
| San Francisco | 22 | 13 | .629 | - |
| Colorado | 22 | 14 | .611 | 1 |
| Los Angeles | 20 | 16 | .557 | 2 |
| San Diego | 14 | 21 | .400 | 8 |

| American League | | | | |
|------------------|----|----|------|-------|
| East Division | W | L | Pct. | GB |
| Baltimore | 25 | 11 | .694 | - |
| New York | 22 | 17 | .565 | 4 |
| Toronto | 17 | 22 | .435 | 9 |
| Detroit | 16 | 21 | .432 | 9 1/2 |
| Boston | 15 | 21 | .417 | 10 |
| Central Division | W | L | Pct. | GB |
| Milwaukee | 19 | 15 | .559 | - |
| Kansas City | 18 | 17 | .514 | 1 1/2 |
| Cleveland | 18 | 18 | .500 | 2 |
| Chicago | 14 | 21 | .400 | 5 1/2 |
| Minnesota | 14 | 24 | .369 | 8 1/2 |
| West Division | W | L | Pct. | GB |
| Seattle | 22 | 16 | .579 | - |
| Texas | 20 | 18 | .526 | 1 |
| Anaheim | 19 | 19 | .500 | 1 1/2 |
| Oakland | 15 | 24 | .385 | 8 |

Tuesday's NL games: Philadelphia 3, St. Louis 2; Montreal 7, San Diego 3; San Francisco 4, Cincinnati 1; NY Mets 4, Houston 3; Florida 11, Atlanta 5; Chicago Cubs 2, Los Angeles 1. Tuesday's AL games: Seattle 2, Milwaukee 1; Baltimore 7, Oakland 3; Detroit 4, Toronto 0; Kansas City 9, Boston 6; NY Yankees 11, Minnesota 2; Cleveland 7, Texas 3; Anaheim 8, Chicago White Sox 7.

Moscow pitch re-seeded for Russia-Israel match

MOSCOW (Reuters) — Russian national squad officials, exasperated by the bare and bumpy surface at Moscow's Dynamo stadium, have ordered a total makeover of the pitch in time for an important World Cup qualifier against Israel next month.

Oleg Tochilovich, director of the ground where Russia have played home games since the Luzhniki national stadium closed for improvements 18 months ago, said it would have intensive treatment with fast-growing grass seed and rollers.

Premier league Dynamo Moscow would play this Saturday, giving the pitch three weeks to recover before Israel, who lead group five ahead of second-

placed Russia, arrive on June 8.

Dynamo and fellow club tenants CSKA will play home games at other grounds in the capital in the meantime.

Russia beat Luxembourg 3-0 at the 50,000-seater Dynamo stadium last month but players and officials complained the state of the pitch after an unusually long winter contributed to an encounter lacking in any display of great skill.

By the time Bulgaria visit Moscow on October 11 for the final group match, Russia should be re-installed in a revamped and fully roofed 100,000-seat Luzhniki ground.

Bulls advance, Sonics stave off elimination

CHICAGO (Reuters) — The defending NBA champion Chicago Bulls finished off the Atlanta Hawks four games to one on Tuesday, while the Seattle SuperSonics lived to fight again after staving off elimination at the hands of the Houston Rockets.

The Bulls, sparked by an emotional performance by bad boy Dennis Rodman on his 36th birthday, rolled into the Eastern Conference finals with a 107-92 victory over Atlanta.

The Rockets missed a chance to join Chicago and Utah in the NBA's version of the final four by falling to Seattle at home, 100-94.

Rodman snapped out of a playoff funk with 12 points and nine rebounds, helping hold off a Hawks rally in the final period before being ejected yet again.

"Dennis gave us so much energy. He was amazing," said Chicago sharp-shooter Steve Kerr, who

scored 15 points coming off the bench, including 3-for-4 from three-point range.

Rodman avoided major controversy until late in the fourth quarter, when he tangled with Atlanta center Dikembe Mutombo and was ejected for the third time in eight playoff games.

By that time, however, the game in the books and Rodman peeled off his jersey and tossed it into the crowd to a standing ovation.

Chicago superstar Michael Jordan, who had a game-high 24 points despite not scoring in the fourth quarter, Scottie Pippen added 15 for the Bulls, who are in the Eastern Conference finals for the seventh time in the last nine years.

Chicago awaits the winner of the New York-Miami series.

Christian Laettner scored 23 points, Mookie Blaylock added 20

and Tyrone Corbin chipped in 19 for Atlanta.

Sonics 100, Rockets 94
In Houston, Hershey Hawkins scored 23 points and the Sonics held the Rockets' long-range gunners in check to win for the third time when facing elimination in this year's playoffs.

The defending conference champions forced the series back to Seattle for Game Six today when they will face another win or hit the golf course situation again.

"When they went up three (games) to one, they made the series very simple," said Seattle coach George Karl. "It's a one-game series every night." The top-seeded Utah Jazz, who finished off the Lakers in five games, await the series winner.

Gary Payton had 21 points and 11 assists and Shawn Kemp added 20 points and 10 rebounds for the Sonics.

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NEWS

in brief

Procedures allow cancer patient to have kids

A 24-year-old woman being treated for a cancerous brain tumor has been given a triple chance to be a mother after she recovers. Gynecologists at the Rabin Medical Center-Beilinson Campus in Petah Tikva carried out a series of three procedures to allow her to have a baby. Her chemotherapy was postponed for a short time to allow her to ovulate and carry out in-vitro fertilization with her partner's sperm. The resulting embryos were frozen. In addition, they used the new technique of freezing sections of her ovary, which is being carried out in only a few medical centers around the world. To prevent further damage to her ovaries during anti-cancer therapy, her ovaries were pushed from the center of her lower abdomen to one side. She was the first cancer patient in Israel to undergo all three techniques. *Judy Siegel*

Suspected pimps for 12-year-old out on bail

Avraham Ya'acovov and Maxim Shakrov, who are suspected of raping and pimping for a 12-year-old girl, were released from jail yesterday on NIS 40,000 bail each, NIS 10,000 of which was in cash. They were placed under house arrest and barred from leaving the country until the end of the legal proceedings against them. Tel Aviv District Court Judge Avraham Bizar rejected the prosecution's request to keep them in jail, saying that they do not pose a danger to the public and that they may not have known the girl's age. According to the charge sheet, the girl had ran away from home in March and Ya'acovov and Shakrov offered her a job and place to live. *Tim*

Nili Cohen named TAU rector

Prof. Nili Cohen, 49, was elected rector of Tel Aviv University by the Faculty Senate yesterday. She had been serving as deputy rector for the past three years. Cohen is the first TAU graduate to be named rector. She received her bachelor's, master's, and doctorate degrees in law from the university. In 1986, the justice minister appointed her to serve on the committee codifying civil law. *Jerusalem Post Staff*



Nili Cohen

Honorary doctorates from Hebrew University

World Jewish Congress President Edgar Bronfman and author Herman Wouk will be among the recipients of honorary doctorates during the meeting of the Hebrew University's Board of Governors. The two will receive the awards at a ceremony at the university amphitheater on June 1.

Bronfman is being honored for "his important work on behalf of the Jewish people, and in appreciation of his friendship for and support of the Hebrew University." Wouk, author of *The Caine Mutiny*, *Winds of War* and *War and Remembrance*, is being honored for "his multifaceted contribution to American and Jewish culture, and in recognition of his warm friendship with the Hebrew University and the State of Israel." *Jerusalem Post Staff*

Ministry sets school parties guidelines

The Education Ministry has issued guidelines forbidding organizers, directors, actors and other external professionals from organizing school end-of-year parties.

Principals were instructed to see to it that "parties and ceremonies in schools are carried out in a modest and frugal manner" and were told to avoid unnecessary spending. *Aryeh Dean Cohen*



Righteous Gentiles recognized

Accepting certificates as Righteous Gentiles at a ceremony at Yad Vashem yesterday are (from left) Anna Hornung Tomczak of Poland, Maria Chalipitko of Ukraine, and Janina Karolicka of Poland - all of whom hid Jews in their homes, married Jews after the war, and now live in Israel - and Wieslawa Kazimierz of Poland, who with her mother, Apolonia Wojtowicz, hid a Jewish brother and sister and procured false papers for them. *(Isaac Harari)*

Strikers blockade Meridor's office

By DAVID HARRIS and Tim

Some 30 local authority heads prevented people from entering Finance Minister Dan Meridor's office for two hours yesterday afternoon, in a protest against his ignoring their demands for increased budgets.

One of those turned away by the protesters was Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky, who arrived for a meeting with Meridor but left after the local authority heads denied him entry.

Meridor and his senior staff were left angered by the incursion. "If they think this will make me compromise they are totally mistaken," Meridor told *The Jerusalem Post* last night.

The Union of Local Authorities (ULA), meanwhile, decided to step up its strike action today in an effort to force a solution to the local authorities' deficit problem. Yesterday, 252 of the 263 local authorities were on strike, providing no municipal services other than education and emergency services.

As of today, local authorities - probably including Rishon LeZion which, along with Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, Haifa, Givatayim, Herzliya, Ramat Gan and Bat Yam, had not been on strike - will cease education services.

Convoys of garbage trucks will also take to the road in various localities, and other protest actions will take place.

"There won't be a single resident of this country who will not feel this personally," the ULA leadership vowed.

The decision to expand the strike followed a meeting between Meridor and Interior Minister Eli Suissa, at which it was decided to transfer NIS 200 million to the local authorities to help them cover their debts.

But ULA leaders dismissed this as a "joke," noting that the accumulated debt of the local authorities now stands at NIS 4 billion and that dozens of local authorities have yet to pay their workers' April salaries.

Judy Siegel adds:
The 700 doctors at the two Hadassah-University Hospitals will strike today, instituting a minimal Shabbat schedule. The intensified sanctions at the Ein Keren and Mount Scopus hospitals were called as a "protest against management's unilateral actions against the doctors and now management threatens mass dismissals." Hadassah management has been demanding that the doctors take a fair share in its recovery program to make up the current deficit of NIS 187 million.

Wounded policeman sent home

Meni Guy, a Border Police medic who was seriously wounded during riots in the territories in September, will be discharged from Sheba Hospital today, able to walk on crutches. He was hurt when Haim Asias, a Channel 2 cameraman, climbed a tower to get a good perch for filming and was shot in the stomach. Guy climbed up to rescue Asias, but was also shot and seriously wounded. *Judy Siegel*

Vaccine could save hepatitis A victims

By JUDY SEGEL

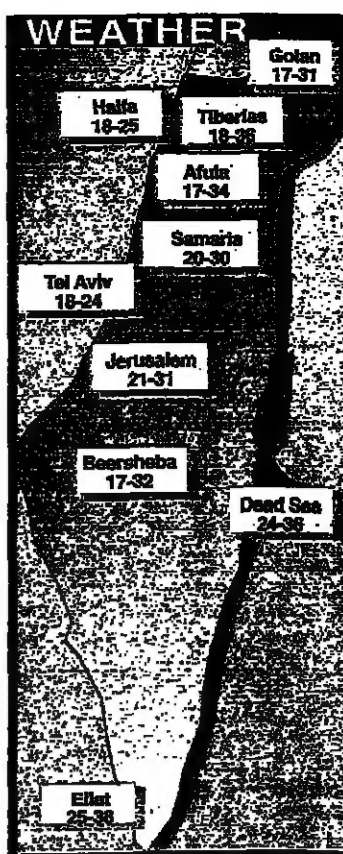
On Independence Day, Bassal Fallah, a Beduin boy from Arab al-Jib, a village near Nazareth, received a liver lobe from his mother, Amal, after he suffered severe complications due to hepatitis A. He was the third Arab child to receive a liver lobe from a live donor. These and other children could have been spared the disease had they received a vaccine still considered too expensive to be included in the regular series of Health Ministry immunizations.

Hepatitis A is endemic in Israel, and most common among Arabs and haredi Jews. Both generally have large families, and the Arabs, in addition, are more likely to live in villages with undeveloped sewage systems and poor sanitary conditions. While haredim most often go abroad - with help from haredi relief organizations - to get a liver transplant, Arabs almost never have such a choice and it is up to a parent to give part of his or her liver.

Passive immunity against hepatitis A can be provided cheaply with a gamma globulin shot, but this offers protection for only seven weeks. Long-term active immunity is provided safely by a vaccine, but since it is produced by only one company and not yet genetically engineered, an adult dose of the more concentrated form costs NIS 215 for one shot (two are needed), while the less concentrated type goes for NIS 143 per dose, according to Jerusalem pharmacist Avi Raz.

It could take five years before the price of hepatitis A vaccine goes down to a level reasonable enough for the Health Ministry to include it in its immunization schedule for children.

Raz notes that haredim are especially susceptible to hepatitis A infection because of their living conditions, relatively poor hygiene in kindergartens, and reluctance to be immunized.



Forecast: Temperatures higher than normal.

AROUND THE WORLD

| | LOW | C | HIGH | F | Cloud |
|--------------|-----|----|------|----|--------|
| Amsterdam | 08 | 48 | 51 | 70 | cloudy |
| Berlin | 13 | 55 | 54 | 75 | cloudy |
| Buenos Aires | 14 | 57 | 57 | 81 | clear |
| Calcutta | 18 | 61 | 85 | 81 | clear |
| Chicago | 07 | 45 | 13 | 55 | cloudy |
| Copenhagen | 07 | 45 | 13 | 55 | cloudy |
| Frankfurt | 12 | 54 | 18 | 62 | cloudy |
| Geneva | 13 | 55 | 25 | 73 | cloudy |
| Helsinki | 10 | 49 | 18 | 62 | cloudy |
| Hong Kong | 27 | 81 | 31 | 85 | clear |
| Jakarta | 09 | 37 | 29 | 84 | clear |
| London | 13 | 55 | 20 | 68 | clear |
| Los Angeles | 09 | 48 | 20 | 68 | clear |
| Moscow | 12 | 54 | 20 | 68 | cloudy |

Winning cards

In yesterday's Chance drawings, the lucky cards were the 10 of spades, 10 of hearts, king of diamonds, and 8 of clubs; and the king of spades, queen of hearts, queen of diamonds, and 9 of clubs.

Report: Freeze Swiss assets

By MARILYN HENRY

NEW YORK - The US should freeze Swiss assets in the US if Bern fails to make "appropriate restitution" of World War II-era Nazi gold, *The New York Times* suggested yesterday in an editorial that called on Switzerland and the US to make amends for war-time policies.

"Switzerland's collaboration with the Nazis was extensive and its moral obfuscation after the war quite remarkable," *The Times* said. "That Switzerland was not alone in its misjudgments does not excuse it from making appropriate restitution today."

Last week, Undersecretary of Commerce Stuart Eizenstat released an American report that assailed the neutral nations for being greedy in relations with the Third Reich and the Allies for being lax in pursuing reparations. The Eizenstat report, however, did not indicate what action the neutral states might pursue to make amends.

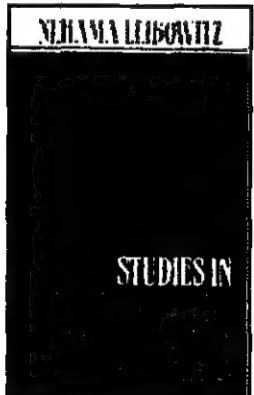
In 1946 negotiations, the Allies reached an agreement with Switzerland to settle the Nazi gold question with a payment of SFR 250 million - some \$58 million - although the Swiss National Bank had received some \$400 million in Nazi loot. There have been calls for this agreement to be renegotiated.

The Eizenstat report noted that the US administration was internally divided in its approach to recovering Nazi loot from the Swiss, and that there were schisms among the Allies. *The Times* said if Switzerland falls short in restitution, the Clinton administration can freeze some of the \$86 billion that Switzerland invests in the US.

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